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Rethinking the Needs of the Invisible Society through Empowerment

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Rethinking Needs of the Invisible Society through Empowerment

thesis summary

This thesis addresses the issue of homelessness and is intended to spark an open conversation about how we can redefine our perceptions of families who experience homelessness. The proposal aims to explore and establish an transitional intervention for “invisible” families to live and develop into contributing residents of society. In the United States, the most vulnerable population are families with children, accounting for 33% of the homeless population. As Covid19 cases continue to rise, and policies continue to neglect affordable housing options, the number of families experiencing homelessness will continue to grow in the future. Through the analysis of case studies, and research of the psychological hierarchy of needs, the thesis aims to propose an intervention that cohesively integrates health, education, and training services driven by equity. The project seeks to provide a trauma free environment, increase educational and training independency, and impart greater inclusion into the lives of families experiencing homelessness.

Rethinking Needs of the Invisible Society through Empowerment

Request for Approval of Thesis
Research Project Book Presented to

Primary Advisor
Professor Ameen Farooq, PhD

and to the Faculty of Department of Architecture -
College of Architecture and Construction Management

by
Jada J. Ross

In fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree

Bachelor of Architecture

Kennesaw State University
Marietta, Ga

7 May 2021

dedication

This thesis is specially dedicated to my core. Thank you for keeping me grounded:

Mom, you have always been my rock. Thank you for your constant love, support, and every sacrifice you have made for me.

Dad, you have always called me higher and inspired me with your passion to be the BEST at everything you do. Thank you for always pushing me past my limits and challenging me to even pursue architecture. I may bend but I will never fold under pressure because of the life lessons you have taught me.

Nicky, thank you for truly being my day 1 and always holding down your little sister for anything that I may have ever needed.

Cam, thank you for blessing me with your goofiness and jokes when I need it the most

And to all of the **families** and **communities** who have endured through homelessness, this is for you.

acknowledgments

To all my friends:
Jade, Audreana, Jaia, Liv, Jerry, Toni... thank you for all the support, love, and prayers throughout this journey.

Angel Jones, PhD
Special shout out to you for believing in me in high school. Your fight for social justice is truly an inspiration for me.

Professor Ameen Farooq, PhD
Thank you for your inspiration and wisdom since 2nd year. I could not have selected a better advisor to coach me through this journey.

To my **peers**:
Thank you for all the memories of the late nights, laughs, and struggles only an architecture major would understand.

To everyone who has assisted me on this thesis journey, thank you. I am grateful for all the guidance and ideas you all shared:

Tulia Scott, AIA, NCARB, NOMA, LEED AP BD+C, Director of Architecture Sizemore Group

Sabrina Callaway, Homeless / Foster Care Liaison at Fulton County Schools

Michael Daniels, Georgia Center of Youth Excellence

Sherene Cadet, Designer, GDP Group

Maria Montgomery, AIA, LEED AP, WELL AP, Project Architect, Associate Perkins + Will

Patrice Early, LMSW Linkage & Counseling Manager

Eboni Belle, DHSc, MS, LMSW

Amber Belle, Social Worker, Emergency Department

00

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01

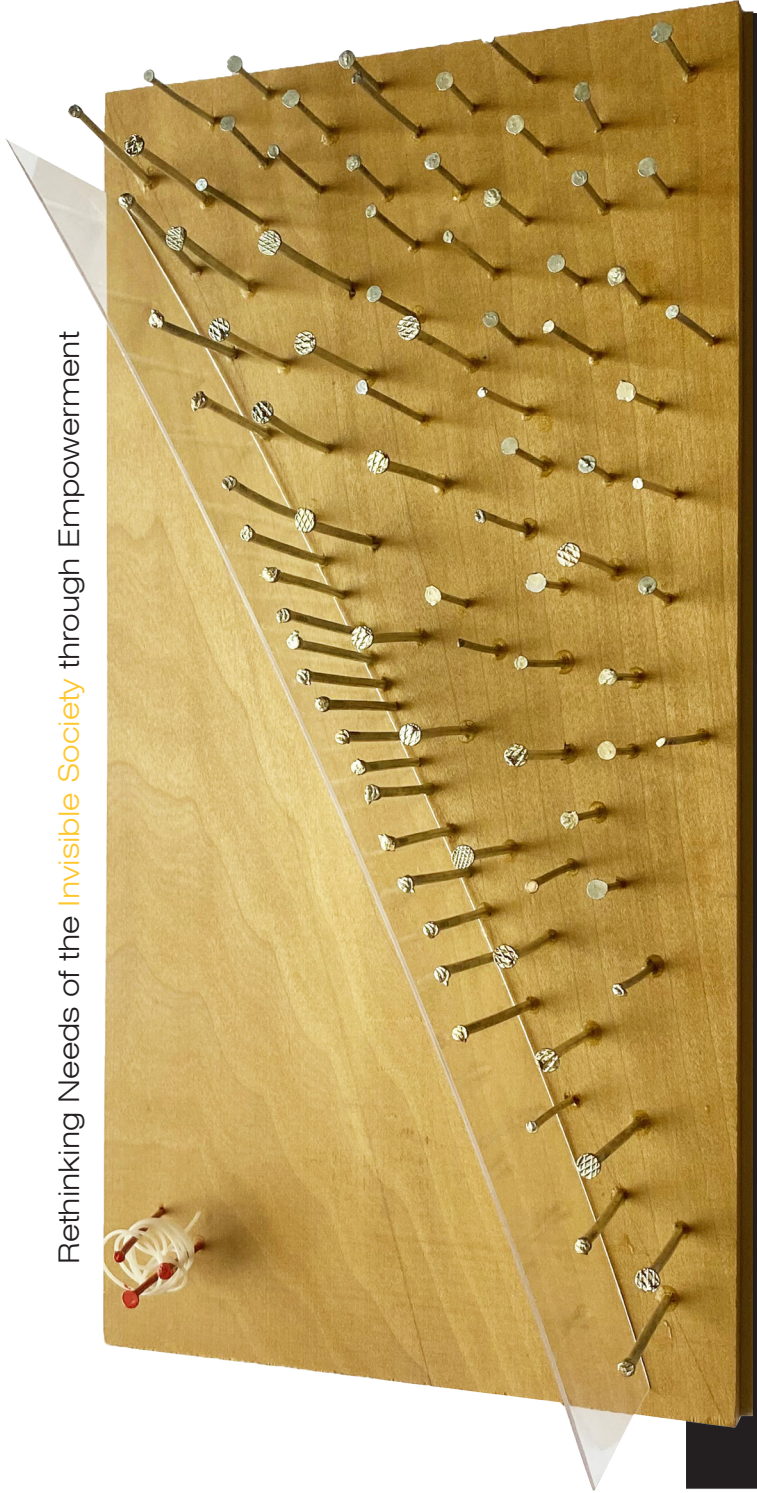
scope

- 1.1 introduction
- 1.2 define homelessness
- 1.3 impact scope
- 1.4 define equitable design
- 1.5 inclusive design
- 1.6 factors of homelessness
- 1.7 changing faces

perception or perspective...

The artifact focuses on capturing the clear divide between the “invisible society” and the other America, known as those who have the necessary resources to be contributing citizens. While the various different nails represent America and those who “have,” at the bottom of both society and the artifact, the red entangled nails stand out from society, representing the “have nots,” aka the “invisible society.” Individuals in this society, constantly struggle to overcome the endless enslavement to homelessness.

Rethinking Needs of the Invisible Society through Empowerment



“We think sometimes that poverty is only being hungry, naked and homeless. The poverty of being unwanted, unloved, uncared for is the greatest poverty.”
- Mother Teresa

1.1 introduction

Housing is a fundamental human right, yet there are 1.6 billion individuals lacking adequate housing globally. In the land of the free and home of the world's greatest opportunities, more than 500,000 Americans experience homelessness on a typical night and approximately 1.4 million, in a given year, will spend some time in a shelter. In the United States, the most vulnerable population are families with children, accounting for 33% of the homeless population. On a single night in January 2019, an estimated 171,670 people in families identify as homeless. Approximately 14,779 of the identified families were living on the street, in a car, or in a place not meant for human habitation. As Covid19 cases continue to rise and policies continue to neglect affordable housing options, the number of families experiencing homelessness will continue to grow in the future. The way Atlanta has tackled homelessness in the past, has

resulted in failure and more families being neglected of the necessary resources to possibly mitigate homelessness. Housing insecurities in Atlanta have resulted in higher school turnovers and low performances, unhealthy, socially injustice environments, and increased unemployment. Developers who invest in citywide projects and underdeveloped communities, cause rents and property values to rise which creates more socio-economic barriers, forcing residents to move out or be removed from their homes. This addresses the issue of how housing should go beyond shelter, place and begin to also provide necessary resources for families to become self-sufficient and reliable as they transition from homelessness. The primary focus is on homeless families, specifically children, who are more likely to suffer from developmental issues and lack the needs to become self-reliant and empowered to overcome their economic barriers.



image 1.2: Denver Homeless Out Loud

1.2 define homeless

The definition of a home has several meanings and can be left up to interpretation. A home is often defined by a boundary, place, and is also perceived as a safe haven and comfort zone with a stable foundation. Homelessness is defined by the lack of stability and security within a place of regular sleeping and dwelling. A homeless individual is a person who lives in an inhabitable space for more than an extended period of time. Homelessness can also be defined as an absence or sense of neglect of place. According to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, an individual is considered homeless when he or she resides in one of the following places or conditions:

- 1. places not meant for human habitation (cars, sidewalks, abandoned building)
- 2. emergency shelters
- 3. supportive housing
- 4. supportive programs after hospitalization or incarceration
- 5. evicted from a residence with no subsequent housing or support

6. fleeing domestic violence with no subsequent housing or support

According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, as of 2019 there were 567,715 individuals experiencing homelessness on a single night. Of the 567,715 the majority of the population consists of individual adults, approximately 67%, and the reminder 33% are families and children. Race and gender are also interconnected with America’s homeless community. Data also illustrates the homeless population is largely male (70%), while White Americans are the largest racial grouping, at 49% as of 2019.

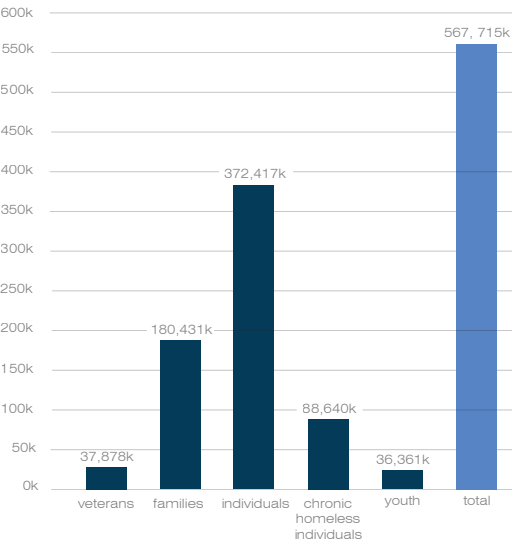


figure 1.1

place

/ plas/

noun

- specific position or point between an individual and space revealing meaning and value

verb

- to find a home or occupancy for

home

/ hom/

noun

- fixed, familiar, rooted inner place providing safety, security, and comfort

adjective

- relating to an anchored place, where an individual resides

in . di . vid . u . al

/ , inde' vijj(oo)el/

adjective

- sole; independent

noun

- a person independent from a family without children

home . less

/ ' homles/

adjective

- to be without a home, lacking adequate habitable place

noun

- an individual who lacks a constant, stable, adequate place to live

shel . tered home . less

/ ' SHelterd// ' homles/

noun

- an individual temporary residing in emergency shelter, transitional housing, housing programs

un . shel . tered home . less

/ , en ' SHelterd// ' homles/

noun

- an individual primarily residing in public or private place not meant for habitation (streets, vehicles, parks, bridges, sidewalks, abandon buildings)

chron . ical . ly home . less

/ ' kranikle// ' homles/

noun

- an individual with a disabling condition (mental illness, substance abuse, or physical disability) who has been continuously homeless for 1 or more years or has resided in an inhabitable space at least 4x in the last 3 years

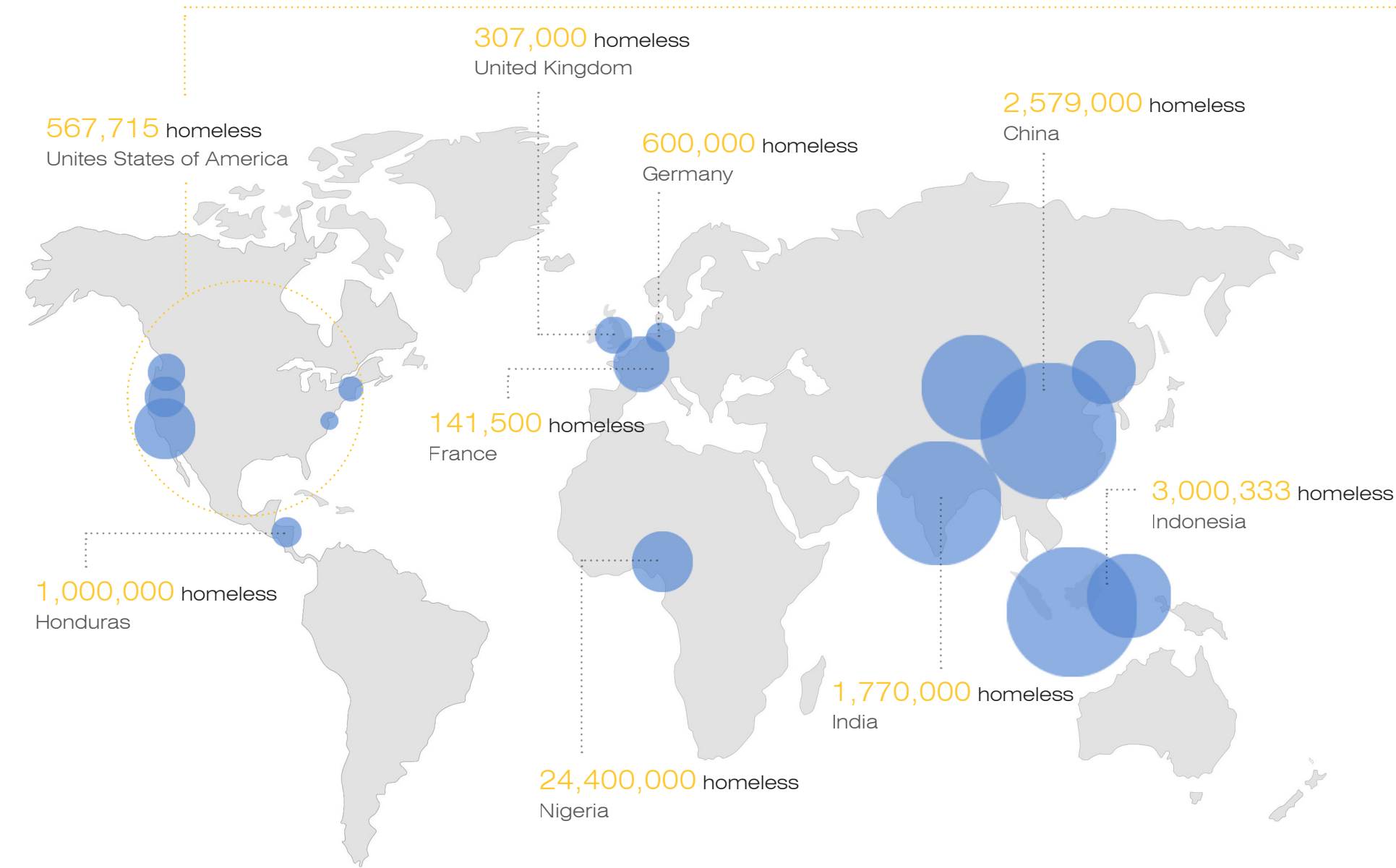
chron . ical . ly home . less fam . i . ly

/ ' kranikle// ' homles// ' fam(e)le/

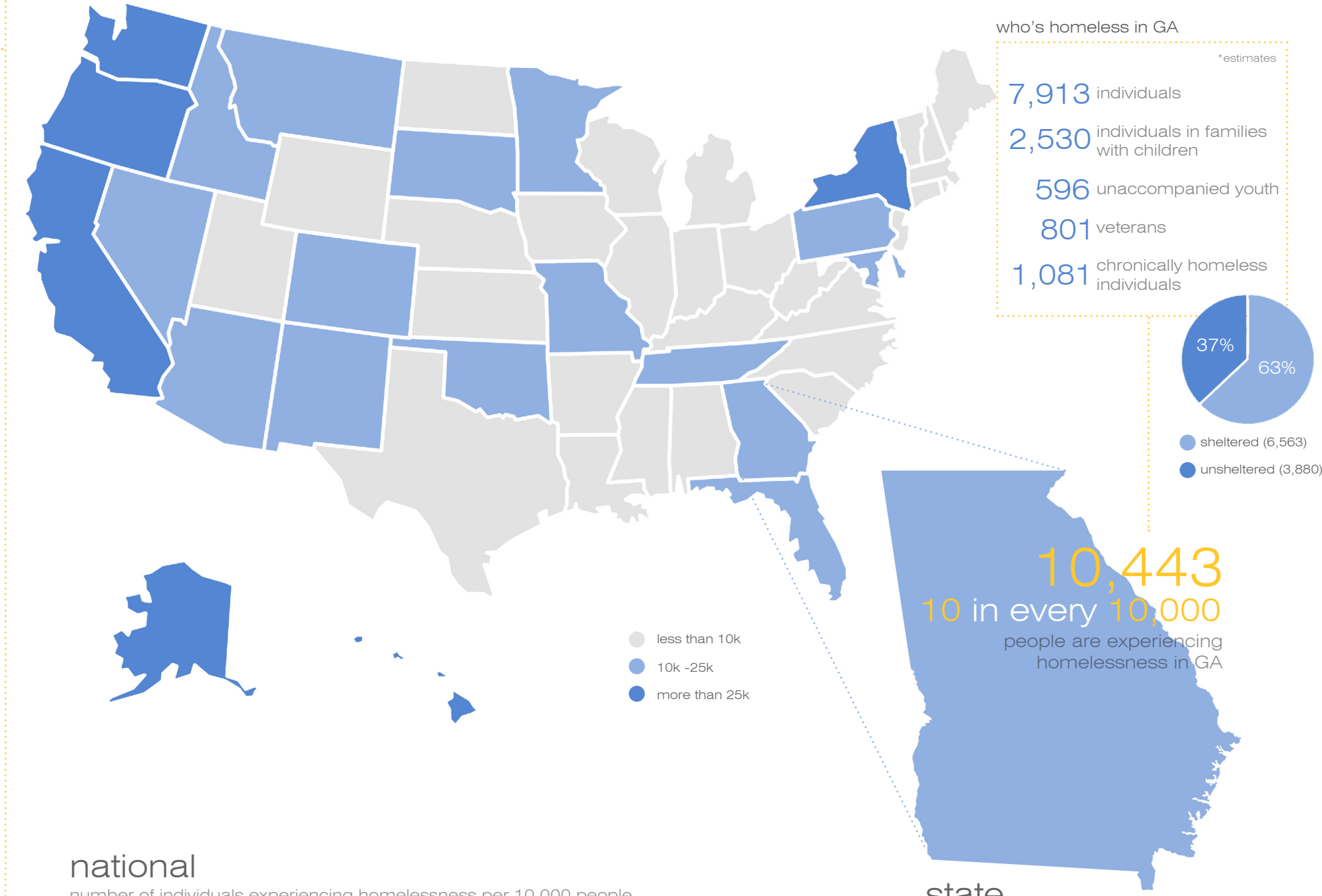
noun

- families headed by an individual who has a disability and who has been continuously homeless for 1 or more years or has resided in an inhabitable space at least 4x in the last 3 years

1.3 impact scope



global
number of homeless



national
number of individuals experiencing homelessness per 10,000 people

state

housing insecurity data

Fulton County, GA

Approximately 33% of all households in Fulton County, experience one of several housing problems (overcrowding, housing that lacks complete kitchens or plumbing). 17% of additional households experience severe housing problems. Studies from CHAS also illustrate that the most common housing problem for low-income households in Fulton County is affordability. An estimated 16,000 low-income households in Fulton County spend more than one-half of their income on housing and another estimated 13,000 spend 30%-50% of their income on housing, resulting in approximately 70% of these households in Fulton County having cost burden. Another study from CHAS notes that affordable housing is a priority, however more housing and services for people who experience homelessness are another priority for the county. Fulton County needs more transitional housing, bridge housing programs with supportive services, and rapid rehousing.

	0-30% HAMFI	> 30-50% HAMFI	> 50-80% HAMFI	> 80-100% HAMFI	> 100% HAMFI
small family households (2-4 persons)	5,270	3,925	7,019	4,894	28,480
large family households (5 or more persons)	1,615	1,015	1,094	865	4,322
households with one or more children 6 years old or younger	3,255	2,107	2,941	1,762	8,054

data source: 2011-2015 CHAS

figure 1.3

	renter					owner				
	0-30% AMI	> 30-50% AMI	> 50-80% AMI	> 80-100% AMI	total	0-30% AMI	> 30-50% AMI	> 50-80% AMI	> 80-100% AMI	total
substandard housing - lacking complete plumbing or kitchen facilities	100	110	115	70	395	20	15	30	19	84
severely overcrowded - with >1.51 people per room (and complete kitchen and plumbing)	185	140	15	4,894	375	0	0	29	4	33
overcrowded - with 1.01-1.5 people per room	624	240	50	865	1,014	105	50	35	59	249
housing cost burden greater than 50% of income	6,718	2,393	494	1,762	9,605	2,568	2,009	1,313	372	6,262
housing cost burden greater than 30% of income	725	3,524	4,120	3,524	8,823	438	1,179	2,828	1,579	6,024
zero/negative income	990	0	0	0	990	343	0	0	0	343
having 1 or more of four severe housing problems	7,624	2,888	670	205	11,387	2,693	2,074	1,413	468	6,648
having none of the four severe housing problems	2,030	4,159	7,840	4,854	18,883	958	2,430	6,129	5,654	15,171
housing has negative income, but no severe housing problems	990	0	0	0	990	343	0	0	0	343

data source: 2011-2015 CHAS

figure 1.4

housing market analysis

Fulton County, GA

Scarcity of housing affordable to families with very low incomes place vulnerable households at an even greater risk of eviction or homelessness. Unemployment, past evictions, poor credit, criminal histories, and chronic physical or mental disabilities are additional potential barriers to securing housing. In addition to economic factors, substance abuse and family problems (domestic violence and abuse, divorce, and death of a family member) are contributing factors to homelessness. For homeless families increased sustainable income (earned and unearned); access to Social Security disability and other mainstream benefits; linkages to health, mental health, and legal services; access to affordable transportation and childcare; and budget counseling, life skills, and other case management and supportive services are imperative needs for self-sufficiency. Results from several public meetings and focus groups shows the hidden nature of homelessness in both North and South Fulton compared to the City of Atlanta. CHAS interview participants noted that there is a particular need for:

- housing that provides access to services and needs (food, mental health services, and workforce development)
- emergency shelter facilities (note: there is a lack of shelter facilities and services in South Fulton) for the emergency facilities housing women and children, housing is always full
- expand mental health services
- one-stop shop for people to access clothing, food, children, workforce development, and other needs
- training and financial literacy, personal finance, and credit scores
- permanent supportive housing (HOPWA funds have been cut)
- database of beds available (potential partnership with Untied Way to strengthen their existing information)
- housing available for use in rapid rehousing programs
- street outreach to people who are homeless, many times people prefer not to go to shelter because of rules (street outreach goal to educate homeless about services available to them)

units affordable to households earning	renter	owner
30% HAMFI	2,700	no data
50% HAMFI	10,343	5,054
80% HAMFI	27,511	13,644
100% HAMFI	no data	19,563
total	40,554	38,261

data source: 2011-2015 CHAS

figure 1.5

monthly rent (\$)	efficiency (no bedroom)	1 bedroom	2 bedroom	3 bedroom	4 bedroom
fair market rent	\$942	\$966	\$1,106	\$1,427	\$1,752
high home rent	\$888	\$952	\$1,106	\$1,313	\$1,445
low home rent	\$697	\$747	\$897	\$1,036	\$1,156

data source: 2011-2015 CHAS

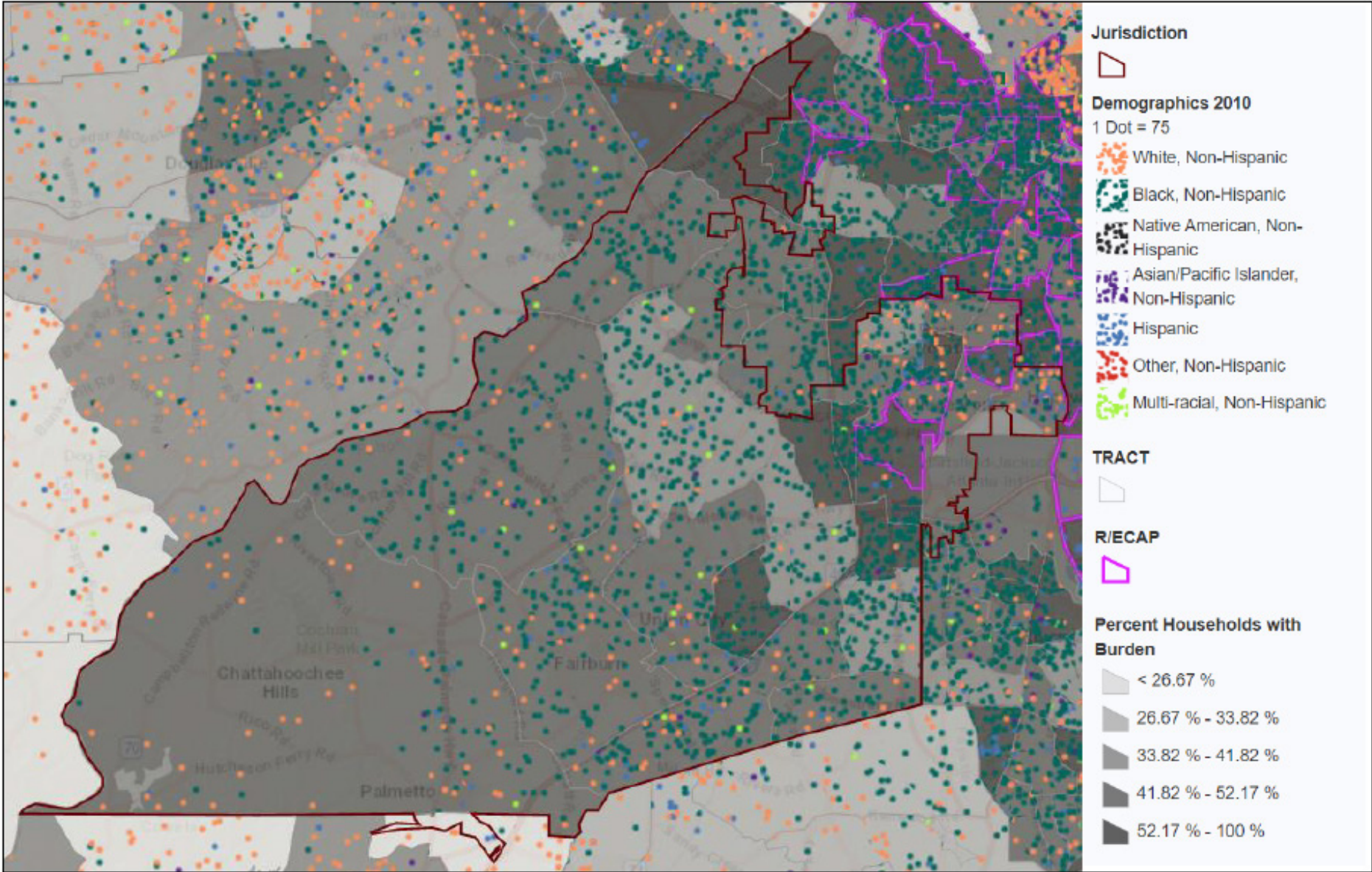
figure 1.6

housing burden analysis

Fulton County, GA

Outcome: there is a clear gap regarding housing burdens occurring in South and North Fulton County. [South Fulton](#) has a significant amount of housing burdens in the 40% -100% range compared to its northern neighbor. The needs and services offered in both South and North Fulton are a direct result in existing equity issues.

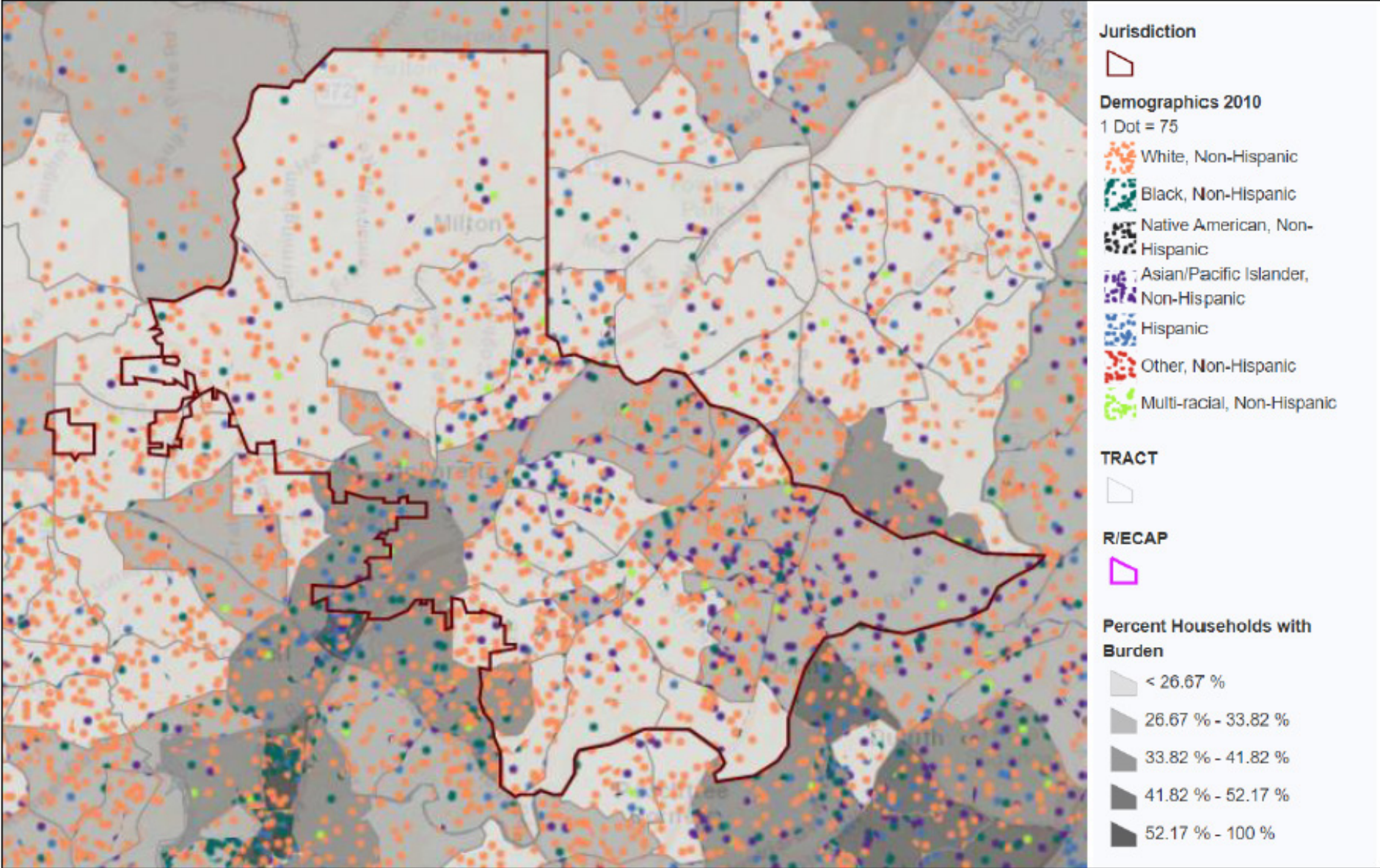
percentage of households with housing burden in South Fulton County



data source: 2011-2015 CHAS

image 1.3

percentage of households with housing burden in North Fulton County



data source: 2011-2015 CHAS

image 1.4

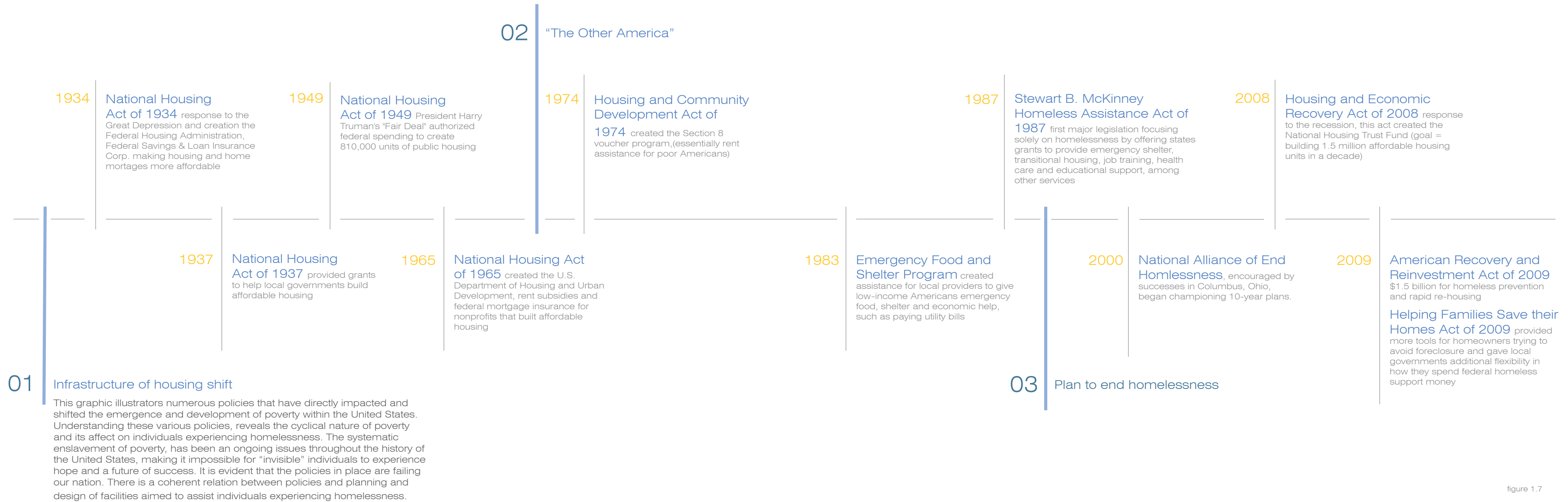


figure 1.7

1.4 define equitable design

Equitable design and its principles assures non-discrimination and promotes equal opportunities through [inclusion](#) and [access](#) for all in communities. Co-creative design thinking allows designers and those on the front-lines of marginalization to build solutions that [address social inequities](#), tackle the human rights crisis of homelessness, and empower homeless families to [amplify their voices](#)

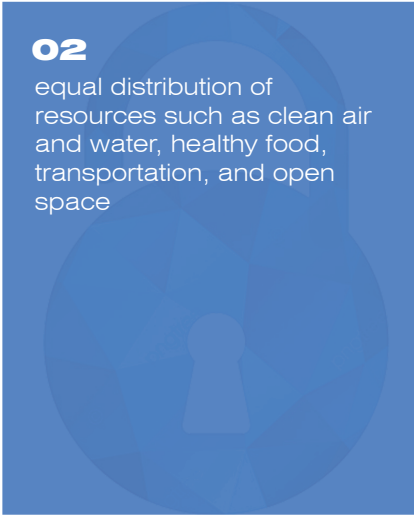
01

inclusivity, ensuring that marginalized populations typically excluded from decision - making are actively involved



02

equal distribution of resources such as clean air and water, healthy food, transportation, and open space



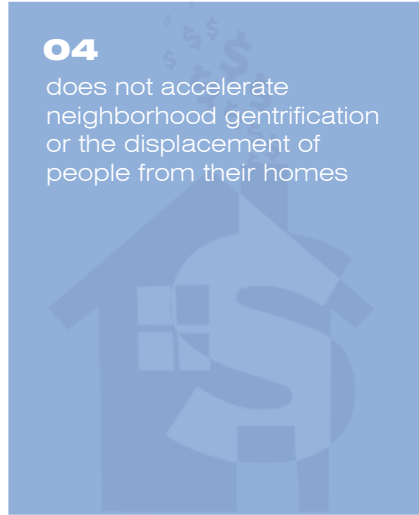
03

presenting a space where everyone should feel welcome and free from discrimination



04

does not accelerate neighborhood gentrification or the displacement of people from their homes



05

empowers marginal users through the use of spatial design, and by providing amenities that are usable and accessible to all people



06

does not produce or distribute pollutants and hazardous material to the public or local environment



07

includes a long-term plan to prevent the project from falling into disrepair and compromising the safety or accessibility of the space



“...addressing equity is not just a conversation about [diversity](#), [equity](#) and [inclusion](#), but rather it is [about the systems change](#) that needs to happen to address real inequity.”

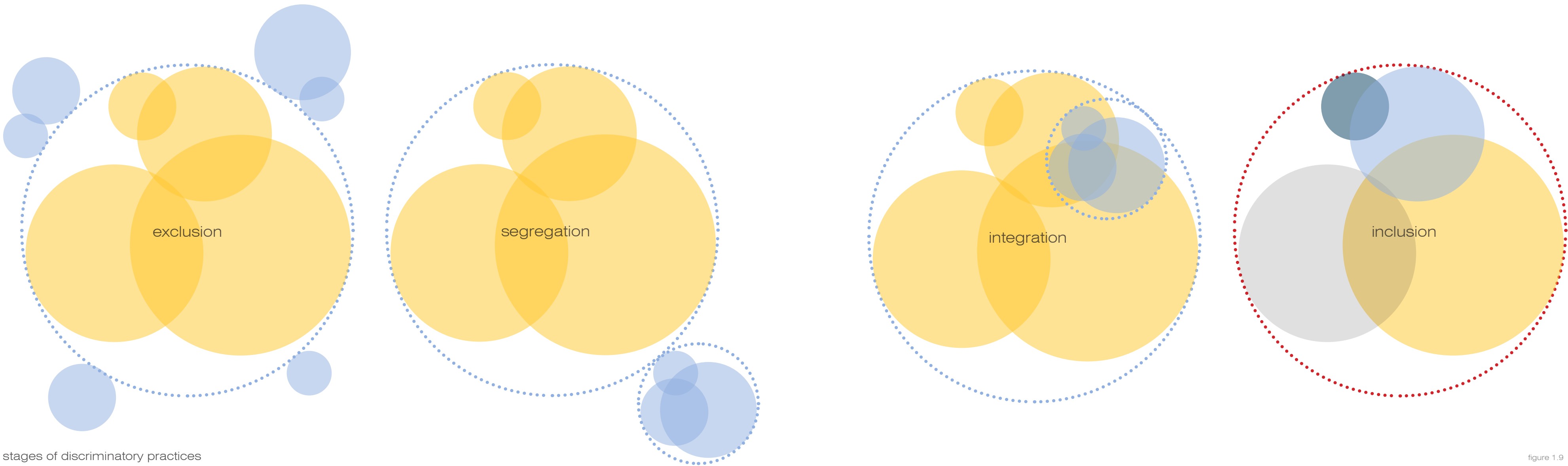
- Rosa Benitez joined the Weingart Foundation

equitable design principles and strategies

figure 1.8

1.5 inclusive design

The housing market has systematically and intentionally denied homeownership and affordable housing opportunities through [discriminatory lending practices](#), and [displacement through gentrification](#). The use of inclusion ensures differences are encouraged and celebrated, resulting in a sense of [belonging](#) and [connection](#).



stages of discriminatory practices

figure 1.9

1.6 factors of homelessness



factors of homelessness

Poverty is directly linked to homelessness. Individuals who are unable to afford housing also lack in resources such as food and education. While the poverty rate has been slowly declining since 2014, a couple of factors account for continuing poverty, ultimately leading to homelessness.

figure 1.11

1.7 changing faces

8%
veterans



image 1.5

38.7%
women



image 1.6

33%
children



image 1.7

60.5%
men



image 1.8

“ So often, families are the hidden homeless.”

- Dennis Bowman
Nicholas House Executive Director

- Approximately 2.5 million children will experience homelessness over the course of a year
- Single Parent Mother: 60% have children under 18
- Single Parent Father: 41% have children under 18
- 84% homeless families are headed by women
- African American: 43%
- White: 38%
- Hispanic: 15%
- Native American: 3%

02

exploration

- 2.1 impact of homelessness
- 2.2 lack of needs
- 2.3 case study framework
- 2.4 research outcomes

2.1 impact of homelessness

Homeless families and children confront serious threats to their ability to succeed and their future well-being. Several concerns are health problems, **developmental delays**, **anxiety**, **depression**, **behavioral problems**, and **educational under achievement**. Recent studies have emphasized that these impacts indicate the need for a **public policy agenda** that addresses poverty among families and their children, in addition to providing housing, stability, and self-sufficient services for those families who are experiencing homeless. An entire generation of children faces unacceptable risks that jeopardize their future potential, which in the long run, **impacts the monetary costs** of neglecting children's needs and are likely to substantially exceed the costs of combating poverty and homelessness.

impact of homelessness

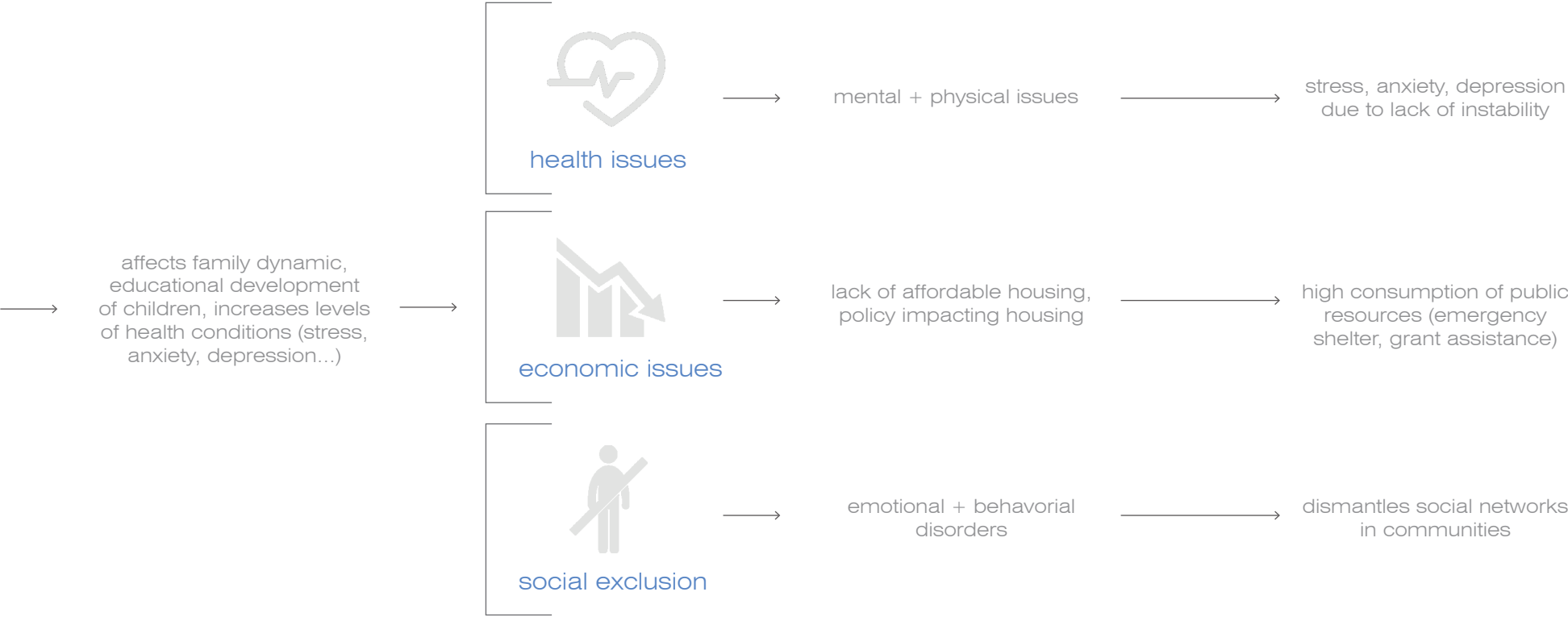


figure 2.1

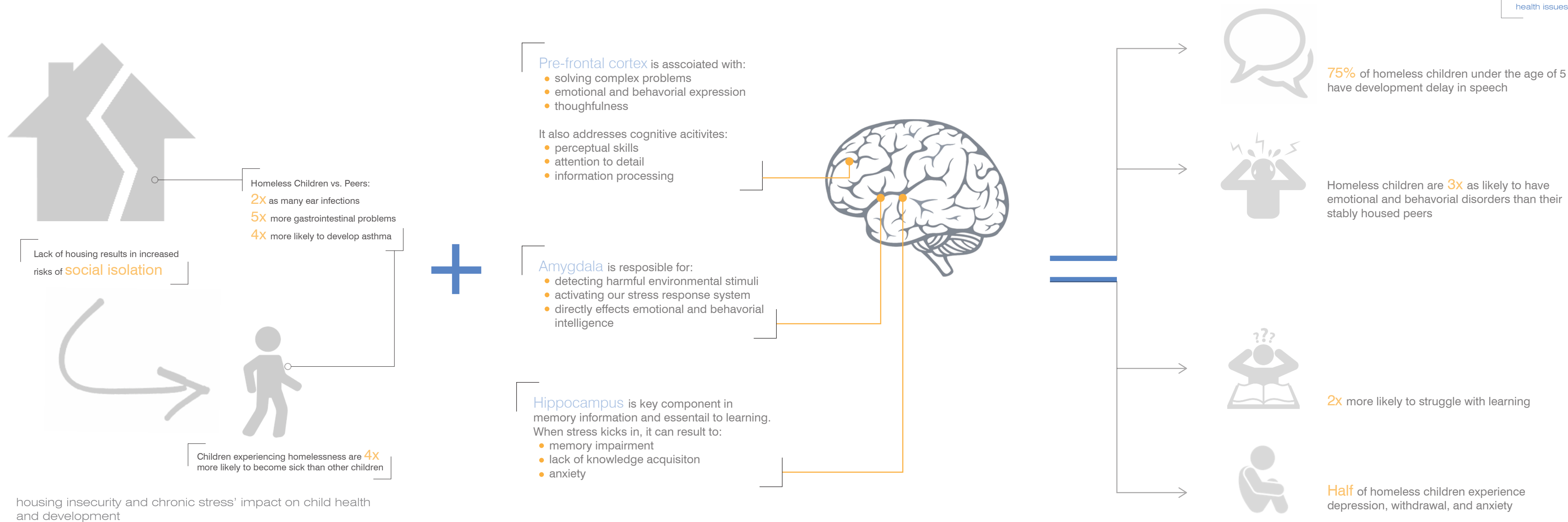
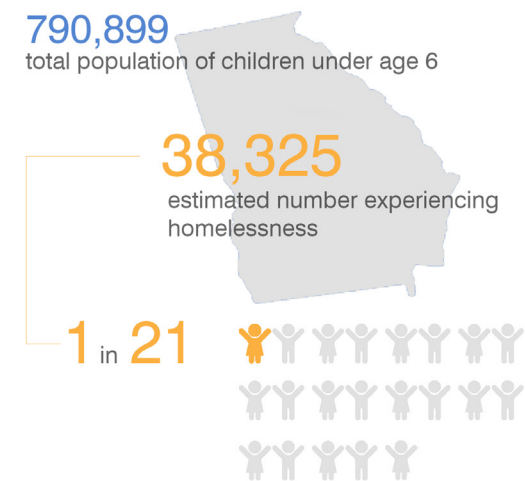
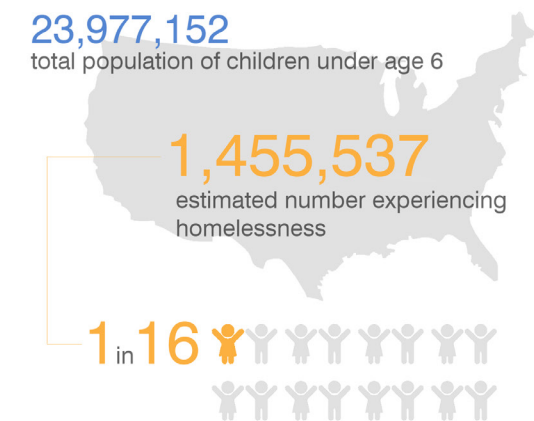
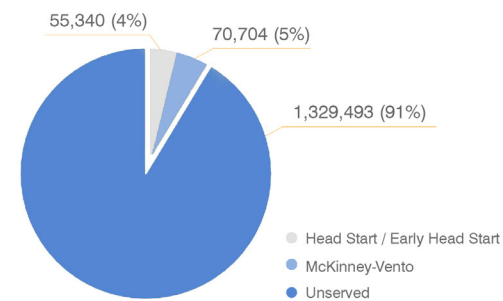


figure 2.2



served by Head Start / Early Head Start or McKinney-Vento funded ECE programs in 2018



early childhood homelessness funding data (2018)

served by Head Start / Early Head Start or McKinney-Vento funded ECE programs in 2018

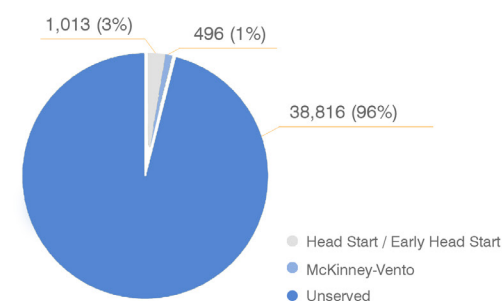
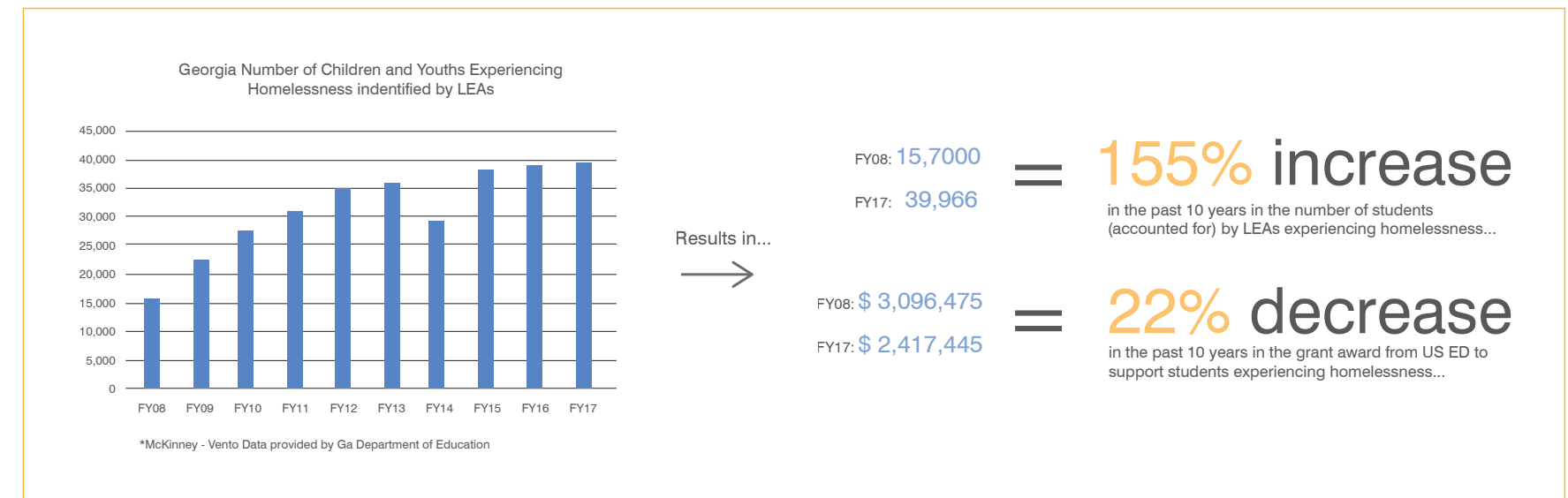
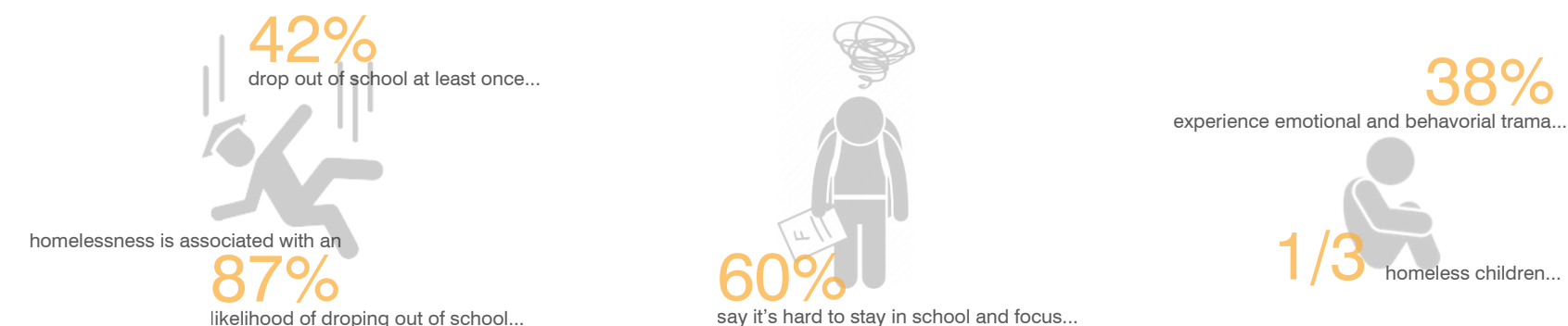


figure 2.3



Educational Impacts



childhood homelessness educational impacts

figure 2.4

social exclusion

social exclusion matrix	Social exclusion is a complex and multi-dimensional process. It involves the lack or denial of resources, rights, goods and services, and the inability to participate in the normal relationships and activities, available to the majority of people in a society, whether in economic, social, cultural or political arenas. It affects both the quality of life of families and the equity and cohesion of society as a whole
resources	material / economic resources access to public and private services social resources
participation	economic participation culture, education and skills political and civic participation
quality of life	health and well-being living environment crime, harm and criminalization

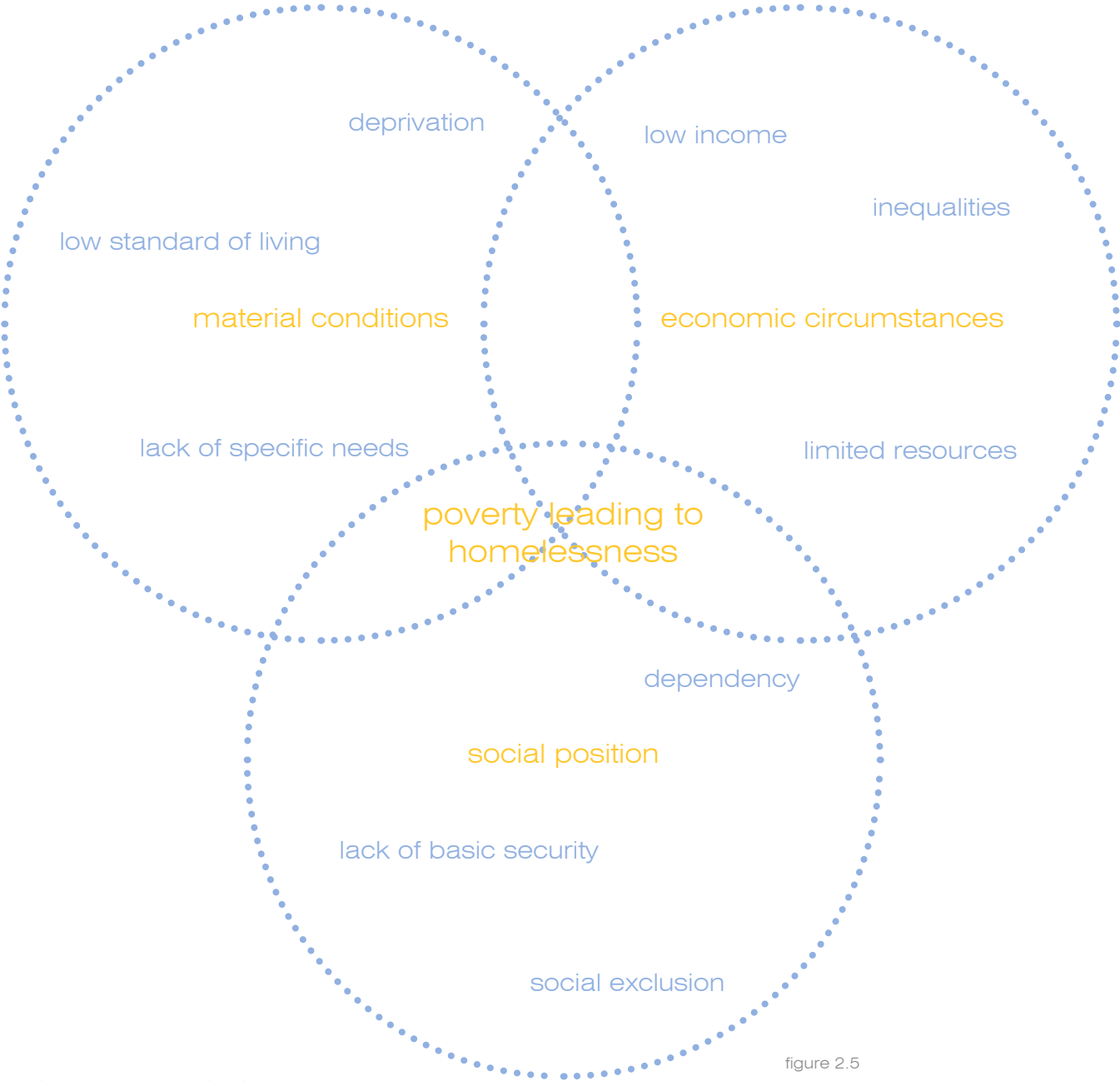
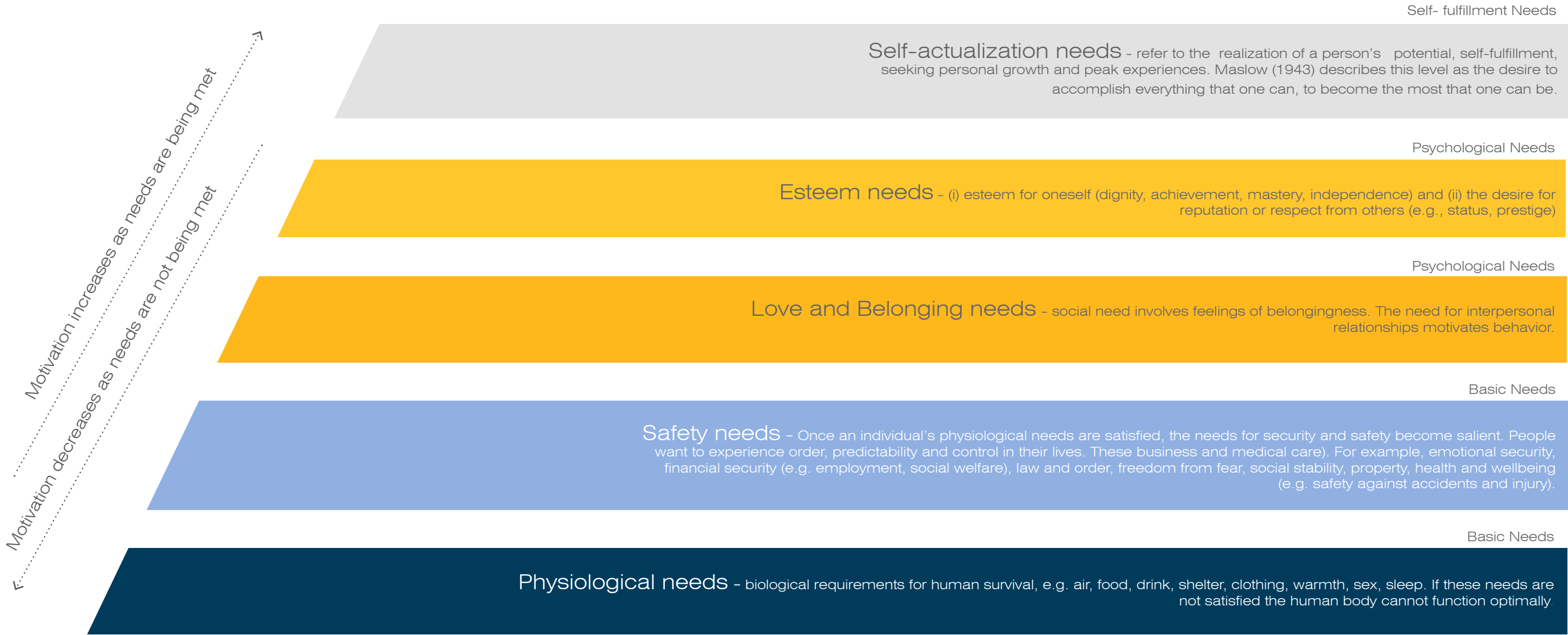


figure 2.5

2.2 lack of needs

Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs is a motivational theory in psychology explores both deficiency needs and growth needs. The lack of needs is the direct cause of the health, economic, and social issues impacting homeless families.

Deficiency needs arise due to deprivation and are known to motivate people when they are unmet. The motivation to fulfill such needs will become stronger the longer the duration they are denied. For example, the longer a person goes without food, the more hungry they will become. Maslow (1943) initially stated that individuals must satisfy lower level deficit needs before progressing on to meet higher level growth needs. Therefore as a person experiencing homelessness, their physical need for survival is the first priority. As a result, homeless individuals striving to overcome the cycle of poverty, simply cannot overcome without their basic needs being met. When an individual has to spend much of their AMI on housing, he or she is forced to make the hard decision to choose between resources, ultimately resulting in housing to being less of a priority.



Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs

figure 2.6

2.3 case study framework

Wellness

Physiological needs

Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs argues for a motivational theory in psychology through a five-tier model of basic human needs. The idea that it is imperative for lower needs to be met before higher more self-sufficient needs are satisfied can be linked to the idea of the basic need of health. It can be argued that **health** and elements such as **hygiene**, **identity**, **comfort**, and **psychotherapy** all play a major role in the self-sufficiency of a person.

Education + Training

Esteem needs

Self-Actualization needs

Social exclusion effects the emotional and behavioral development of families who experience homelessness. Programs and models focused on **education** and **training** foster greater skills sets and development in social networks.

Community

Safety needs

Love and Belonging needs

Community Assets allow for homeless families to receive the appropriate social connections to surrounding **community**.



figure 2.7

case study outcomes



figure 2.8

Bridge Homeless Assistance Center

Location: Dallas, TX | Overland Architects | Transitional Housing

Outcomes

- + Offers residents and non-residents a center with multiple services
- + The small details, such as the glass installations gives a sense of personalization and purpose throughout design
- Campus can be exclusive to the surround community leading to isolation



image 2.1



figure 2.9

Wellness Services: personal care, mental and physical health units, kitchen, shower / toilet areas, provide access to much need health care for residents

Education / Training Services: library and case offices provide programs and classes in employment and several other betterment services for residents

Education / Training Services: library and case offices provide programs and classes in employment and several other betterment services for residents

Bud Clark Commons

Location: Portland, OR | Holst Architects | Perminate Housing

Outcomes

- + Accessibility, natural light, plentiful clean air, and durable materials
- + Project offers a solar-powered hot water system, high-performance facade, energy, green roofs, saving the public in energy costs
- Separation of program (3 sectors) may result in division between parties and community



image 2.2



Wellness is emphasized through exercise room / wellness center, and commercial kitchen



figure 2.10

Housing has 130 permanent supportive studios for single men and women

Day Center, open to the public, provides homeless residents and non-residents with services and resources they need to gain and maintain stability

Shelter for Victims of Domestic Violence

Location: Isreal | Amos Goldreich Architecture + Jacobs Yaniv Architects | Emergency Services Facility

Outcomes

+ Two facades of building - the secure and protective exterior, and inner facade face the central garden and courtyard creating sense of therapeutic "heart" of the shelter

+ Several services such as the nursery are separated from central building to allow service to function as a typical nursery

-Need for more program that functions separately for surrounding community

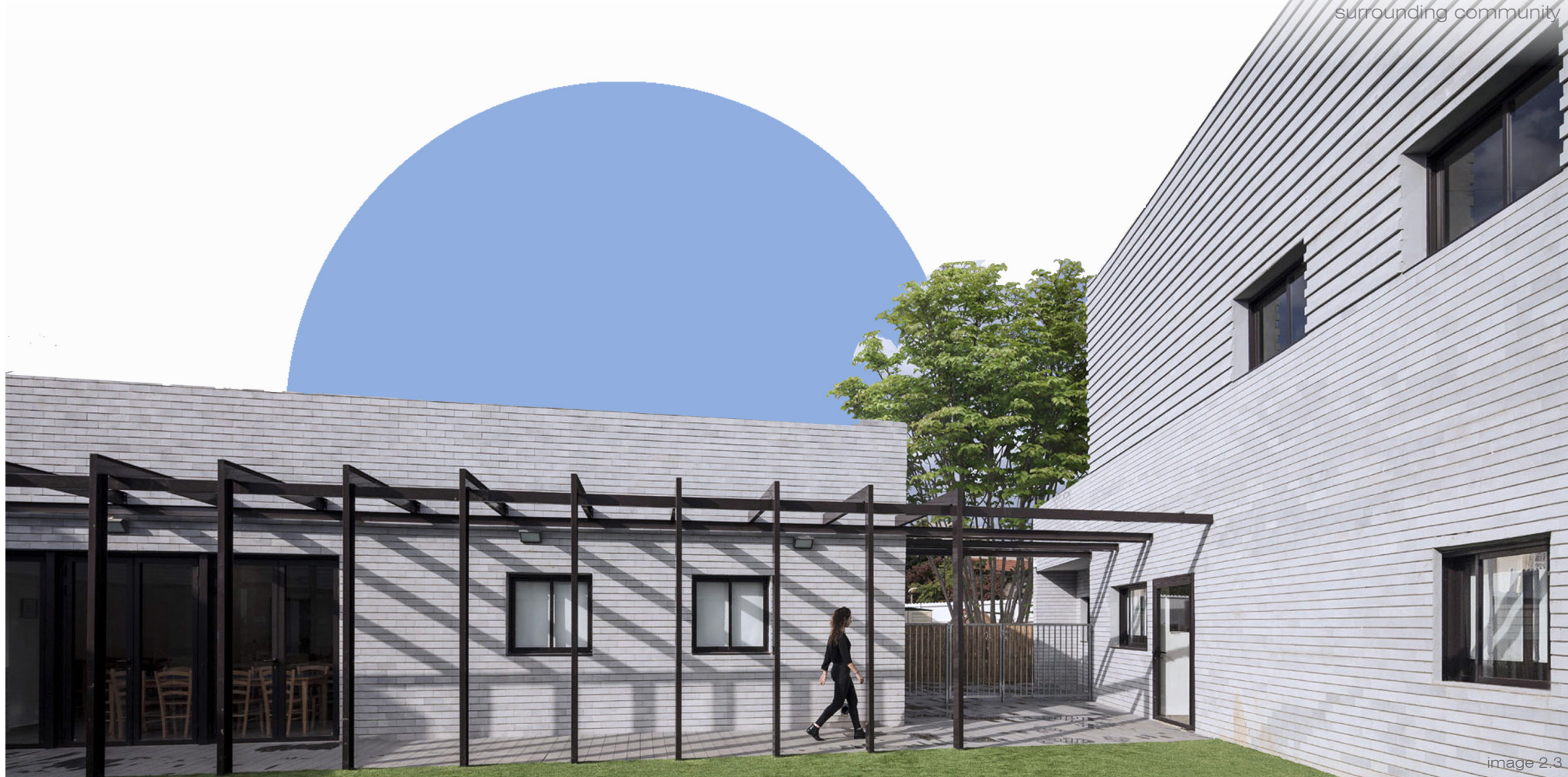


figure 2.11

Wellness Services allow children to experience exercise through playground and outdoor activities. Services such as social workers, and child psychologist provide health support for families

Services such as a nursery, kindergarten, part-time lawyer, all provide necessary services to allow mothers and their children ample opportunity for stability

The green inner courtyard plays a crucial role as a meeting place for residents. It provides connection between internal corridor and family units

Trillium Secure Adolescent Inpatient Facility

Location: Corvallis, OR | TVA Architects | Healthcare Services Facility

Outcomes

- + Accessibility, natural light, material selection and color create therapeutic space for children
- + Project focuses on behavioral and mental health issues with emphasis on trauma informed design
- Lack of focus on guardian / child relationship in regards to programmatic landscape



image 2.4

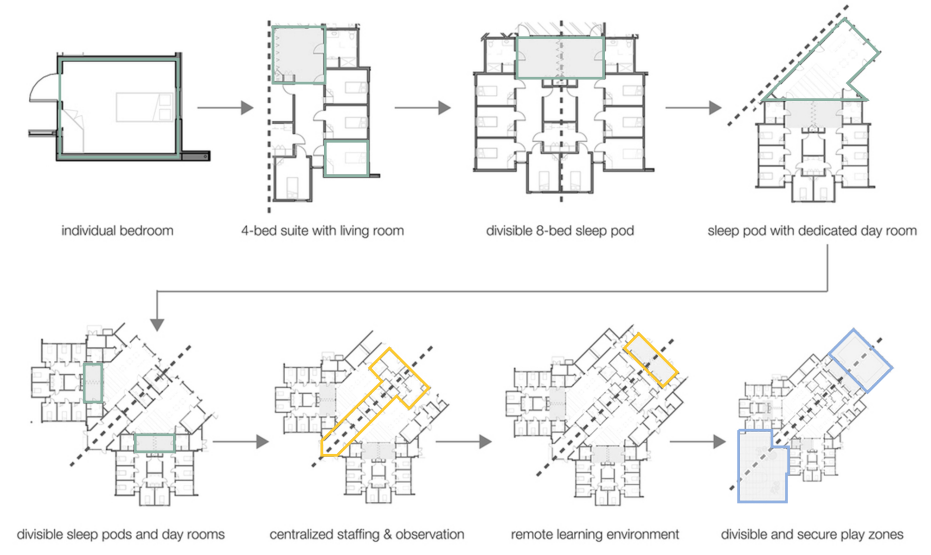
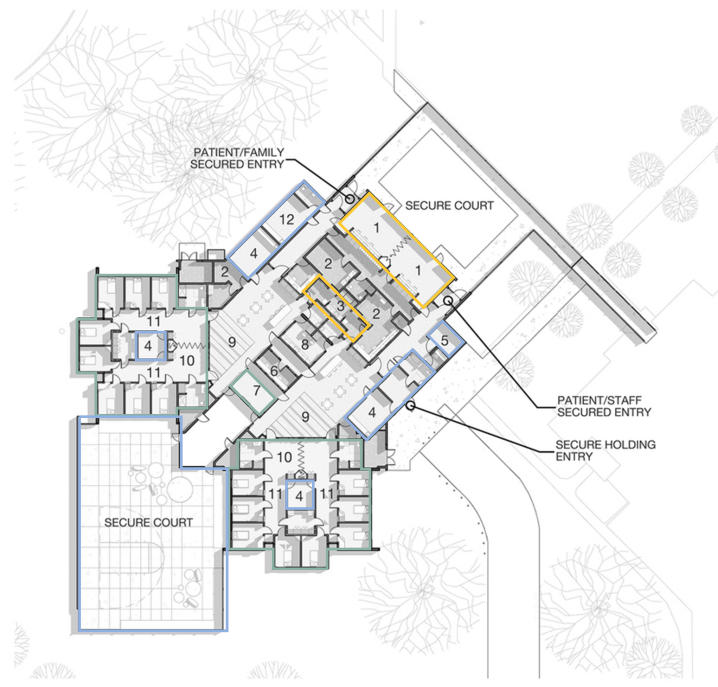


figure 2.12

Wellness Services allow children to experience exercise through secured court. Programmatic pieces such as therapy and seclusion rooms provide health support for children

Services such as a classrooms, and staff support provide necessary services to allow children to obtain educational and social support

Day and living rooms, lounge provides communal programmatic pieces for connection throughout design

Re-Habit Mixed Use Transitional Housing

Location: Los Angeles, CA OR | ktgy Architects | Self- Supporting Mixed Use Transitional Housing

Outcomes

- + Mixed Use environment encourages connection between surrounding community and residents to drive functional stability of residents after transition
- + Project creates an affordable outlet for community
- + Lack of program addressing families. Lack of case management and resources geared more towards residents



Image 2.5

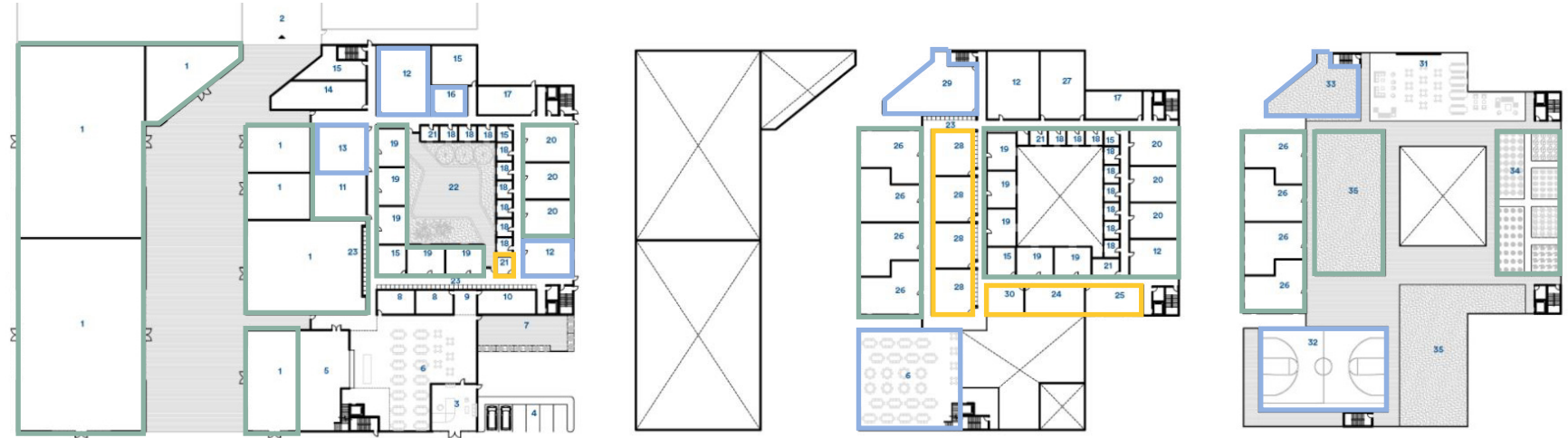


figure 2.13

Wellness programmatic pieces such as meditation space, recreational court (basketball), and even a clinic that serves both the public and residents

Services such as a library, computer center, and training rooms provide necessary services to allow residents and non-residents to obtain educational and social support

Mixed used retail space encourages community connection for residents and non-residents

2.4 research outcomes



figure 2.14

03

experience

- 3.1 site context
- 3.2 family resources
- 3.3 children resources
- 3.4 community resources
- 3.5 neighborhood resources

3.1 site context

state: Georgia
county: Fulton
city: East Point

Poverty is directly linked to homelessness. Individuals who are unable to afford housing also lack in resources such as food and education. When an individual has to spend much of their AMI on housing, he or she is forced to make the hard decision to choose between resources. According to the United States Census Bureau, the national poverty rate in 2016 was 12.7%. There were 40.6 million people in poverty. While the poverty rate has been slowly declining since 2014, a couple of factors account for continuing poverty.

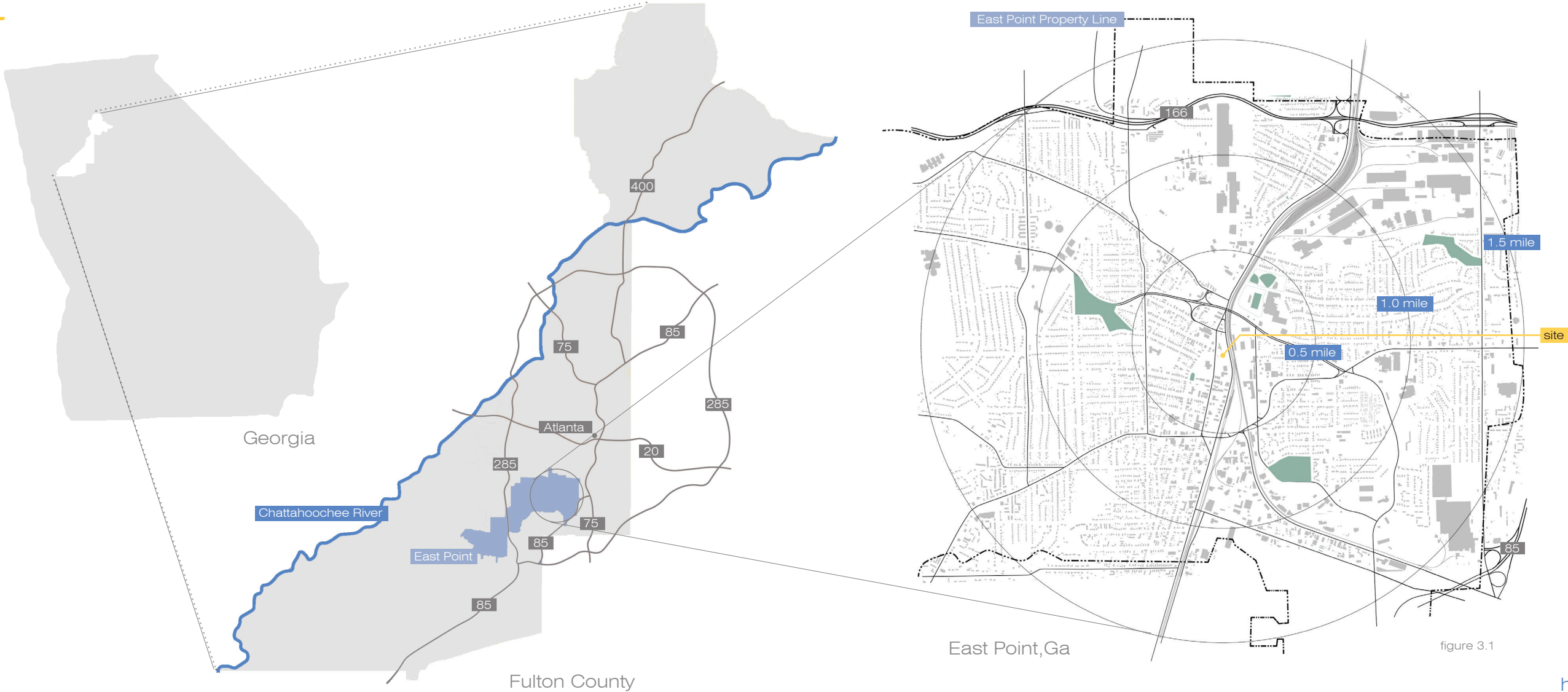


figure 3.1

household types with
children under 18 years

demographics



population 34,977
male 46%
female 53%

population



under 5 years 6%
5-17 years 16%
18-24 years 10%
25-34 years 18%
35-54 years 27%
55-64 years 11%
65 plus years 12%

education



no high school 3%
some high school 38%
some college 24%
associate degree 8%
bachelor's degree 16%
master's degree 11%

rent | income



median rent \$995
median household income \$40,882

poverty



East Point, Ga 22%
Georgia (state) 13%



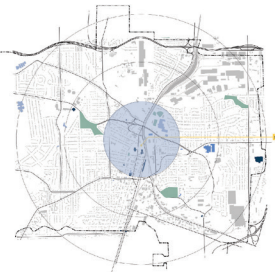
family households 48%
non-family households 51%

under 6 years 19%
6-17 years 47%

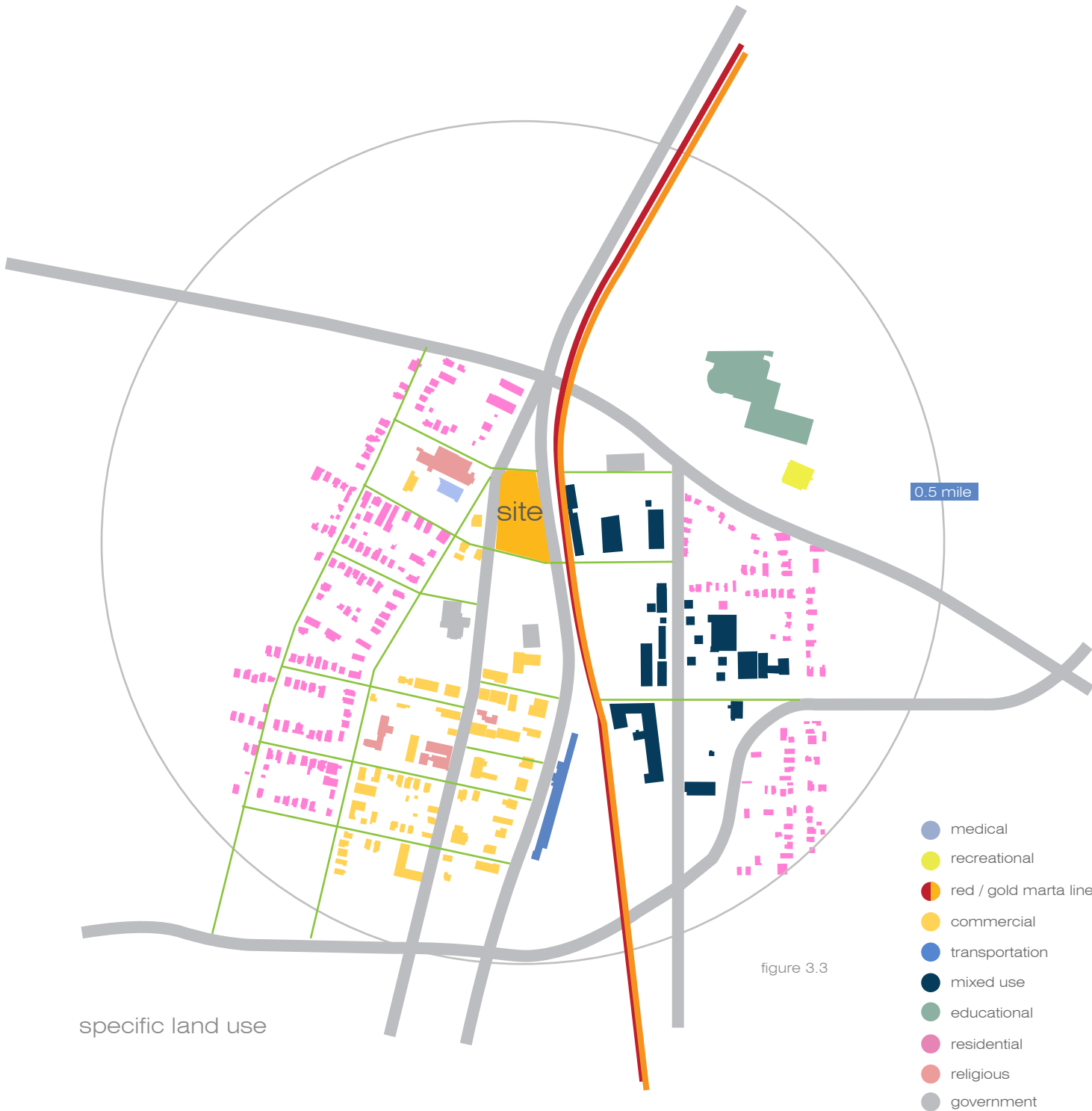
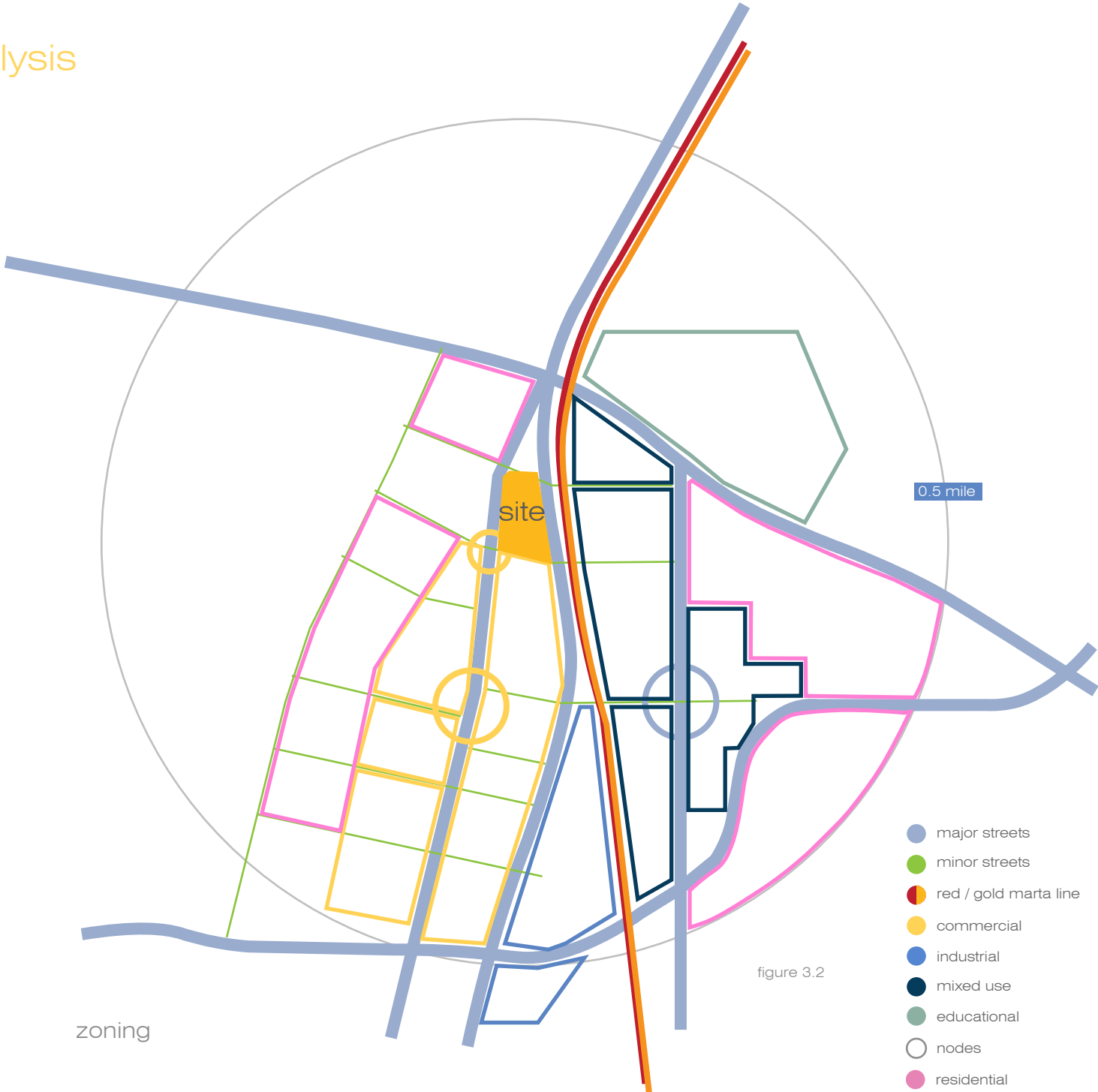
under 6 years 23%
6-17 years 62%

under 6 years 42%
6-17 years 58%

land use analysis



site key



3.2 family resources

East Point

housing
East Point Housing Authorities

support
Atlanta Division of Child Services
Zion Hill Community Development

medical
Wellstar Atlanta Medical Center
South / Family Medicine

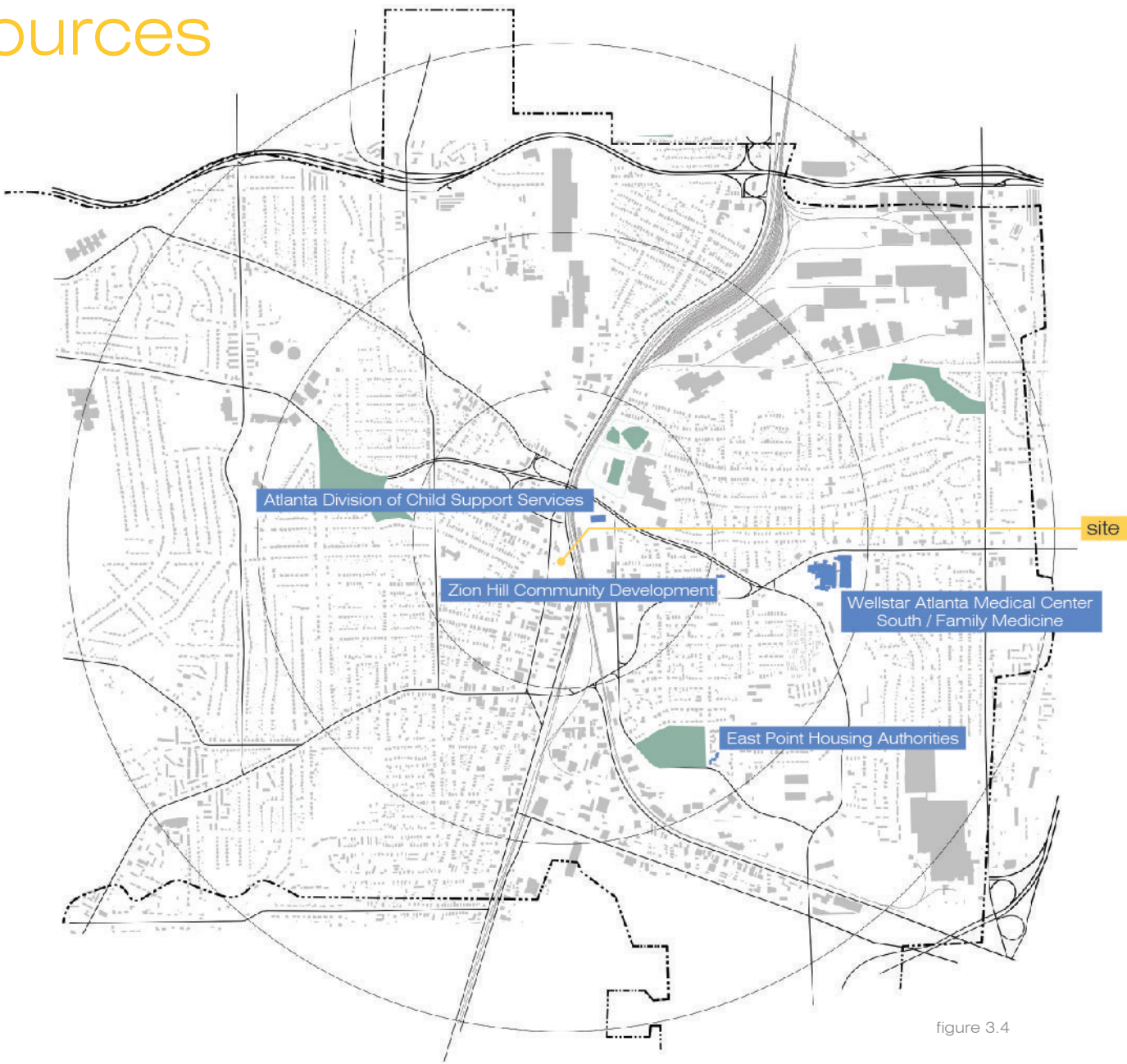


figure 3.4

resource matrix

resources	programs and services	hours of operation	costs
East Point Housing Authorities	Special programs: Home ownership Program V.A.S.H. Program Housing: Family Self-Sufficiency Program Public Housing Program Housing Choice Voucher Program Youth: Summer camp and afterschool programs	Monday - Thursday: 7:30am - 5:30pm	Eligible families pay up to 40% of their adjusted incomes, while Section 8 pays remainder directly to owner Family responsible for security deposit No Cost to initially apply for program services
Atlanta Division of Child Services	Fatherhood Program Parental Accountability Court Program Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Georgia Employer Hub Driver's License Reinstatement	Monday - Thursday: 8:00am - 5:00pm	no cost
Zion Hill Community Development	Financial assistance: Stepping Ahead II Program: provides rent, utility, and repaid re-housing assistance to residents of South Fulton Housing: Z Point: assist in securing housing and other services Medical insurance: free health care coverage with Kaiser Permanente Bridge Program Z Closet: provides used clothing for women and household items 2-1-1 Resource Center: food pantries, job search, financial emergency assistance agencies	Monday - Thursday: 9:00am - 7:00pm	no cost
Wellstar Atlanta Medical Center South / Family Medicine	Financial Assistance Program: provides emergency hospital medical care to all, regardless or insurance coverage Emergency Services	24 hours	no cost / reduced costs for specific programs costs dependent on medical services

figure 3.5

3.3 children resources

East Point

schools

- Tri-Cities High School
- Paul D. West Middle School
- Conley Hills Elementary School
- Hamilton E. Holmes Elementary School
- Seven Arts Center

daycare

- My Little Lamb Christian Daycare
- Childcare Network
- Early Start Learning Development Center

mentoring

- Just US Girls Inc

recreational

- Jefferson Park Recreational Center

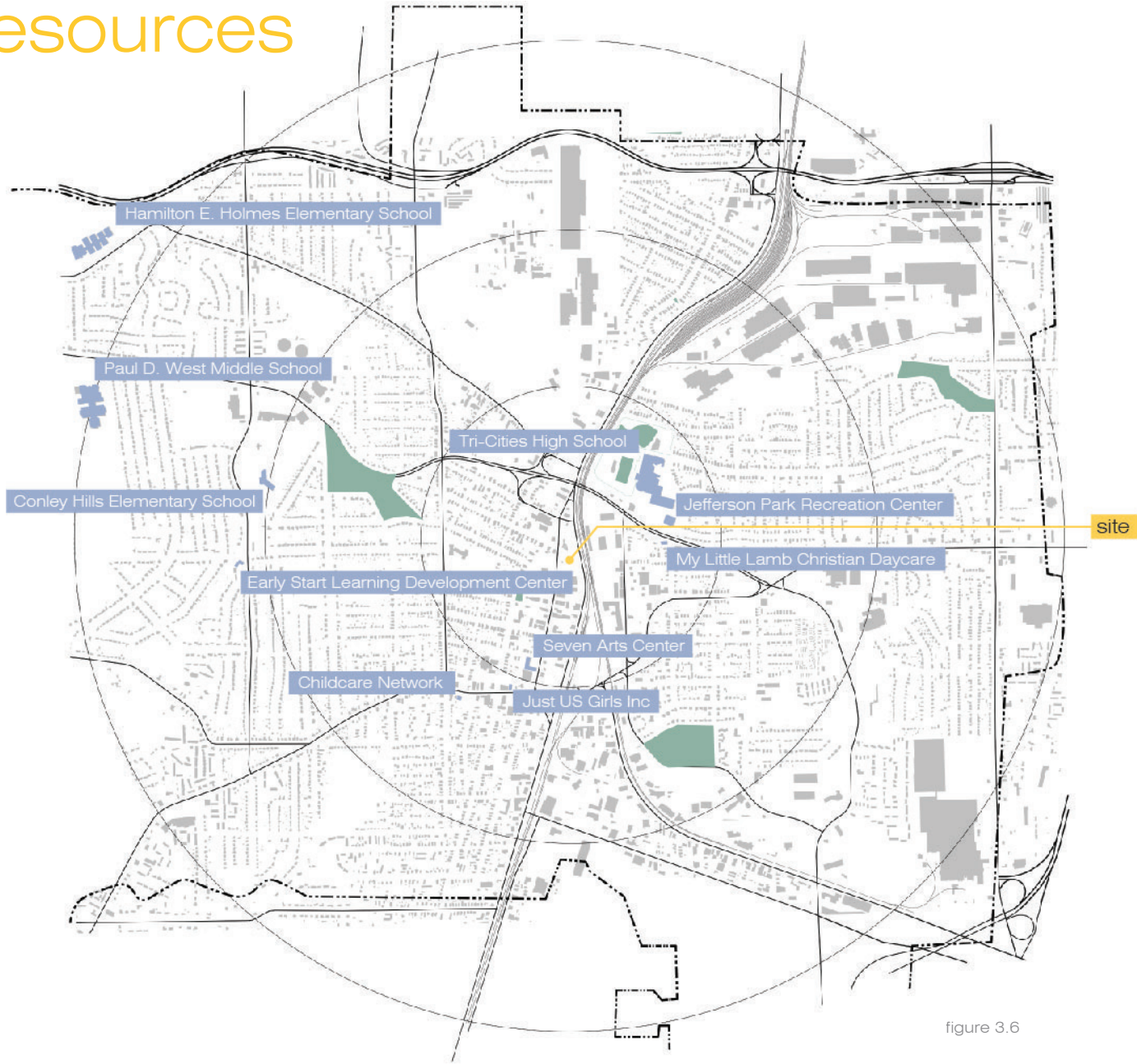


figure 3.6

resource matrix

resources	programs and services	hours of operation	costs
Tri-Cities High School		Monday - Friday: (extended afterschool hours)8:00am - 3:30pm	no cost
Paul D. West Middle School		Monday - Friday: (extended afterschool hours)9:00am - 5:00pm	no cost
Conley Hills Elementary School		Monday - Friday: (extended afterschool hours)7:40am - 2:20pm	no cost
Hamilton E. Holmes Elementary School		Monday - Friday: (extended afterschool hours)7:40am - 2:20pm	no cost
Seven Arts Center	Art Classes After school Programs	Sunday - Thursday: Friday: Saturday:4:00pm - 6:00pm 4:00pm - 9:00pm 11:00am - 9:00pm	\$25 / Mobile Youth Canvas Paint Party \$30 / Mobile Youth + Adult Canvas Paint Party \$35 / SAC Virtual After school Program
My Little Lamb Christian Daycare	Before and After schoold Programs Summer Camp	Monday - Friday:6:30am - 6:00pm	\$155 / mo - under 1 years \$150 / mo - 1 year \$140 / mo - 2 years \$135 / mo - 3 years \$130 / mo - 4 years
Childcare Network	Free Georgia Pre-K Program USDA Approved Free Meals + Snacks Childcare Program (pre-school -12 years) Summer Camp Bright Babies Infant Curriculum Highreach Learning Curriculum	Monday - Friday:6:00am - 6:30pm	\$168 / mo - under 1 years \$158 / mo - 1 and 2 years \$147 / mo - 3 years \$124 / mo - 4 and 5 years
Early Start Learning Development Center	Before and After schoold Programs Summer Camp	Monday - Friday:6:00am - 6:00pm Saturday:12:00pm - 3:30pm	
Just US Girls Inc	Tutoring Etiquette Training Healthy Lifestyle Diet Exercise Academic Support	Saturday:10:00am - 12:30pm	no cost
Jefferson Park Recreational Center	Math, Reading, Writing Tutoring (10 week sessions0 Workshops (Game Design, App Design) Sports Teams (Basketball, Baseball, Cheer...)	Monday - Friday: (extended after hours)9:00am - 5:00pm	\$60 Tutoring per child

figure 3.7

3.4 community resources

East Point

food

- Wayfield
- Walmart
- Metro Atlanta Urban Farm

services

- East Point Fire Station #2
- East Point Police Department
- East Point Library
- Post Office
- East Point Health Center

cultural facilities

- Dignity Museum
- TILA Studios Gallery
- East Point Historical Society and Museum

transit

- East Point Marta Station

parks + recreational

- Sumner Park
- John D. Milner Athletic Complex
- Brookdale Park

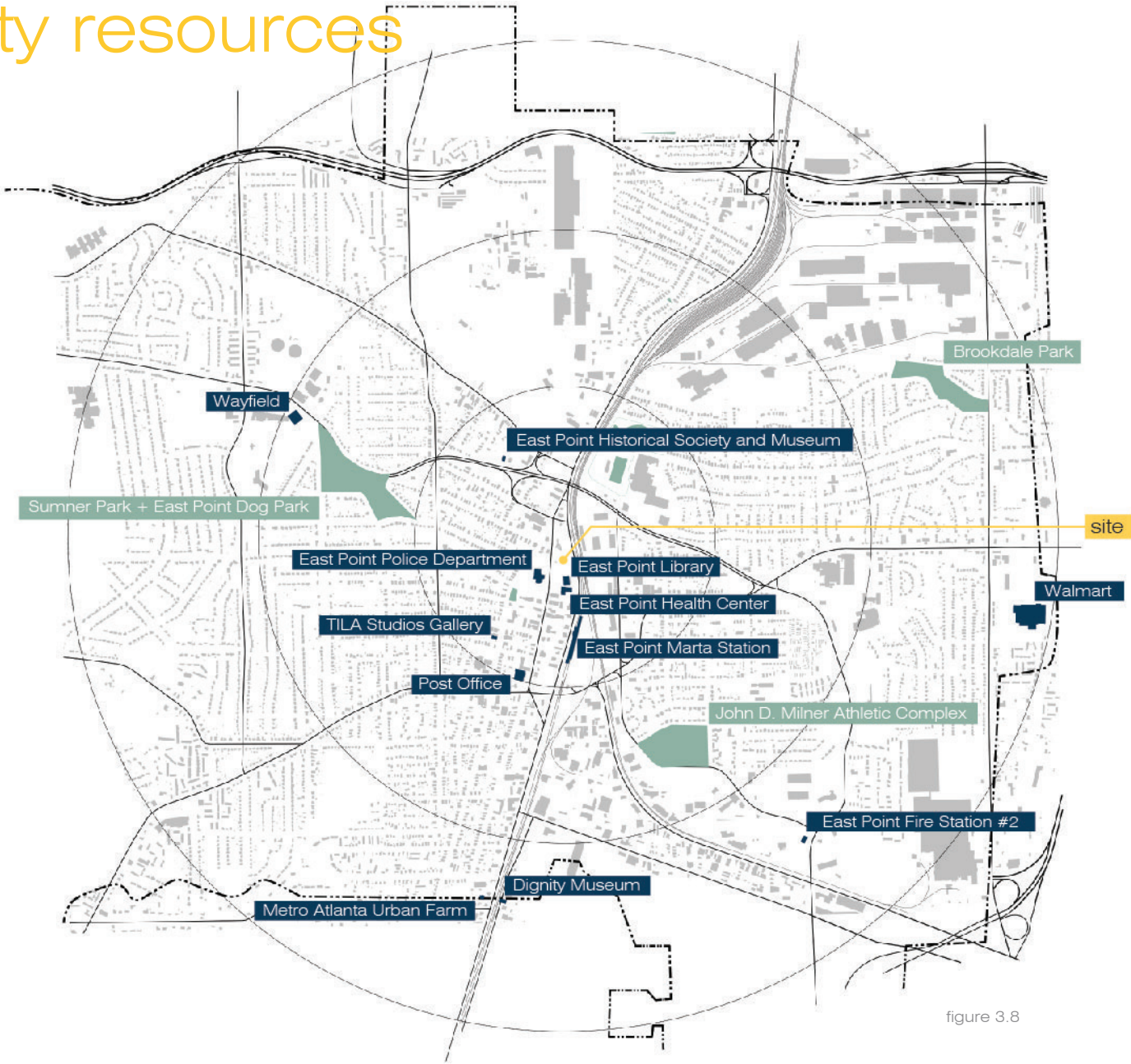


figure 3.8

resource matrix

resources	programs and services	hours of operation	costs
Wayfield	Adamsville Food for Farms; assits families with food staples (eggs, milk, etc...)	Monday - Sunday: 8:00am - 9:00pm	cost based on produce
Walmart	Food	Monday - Sunday: 7:00am - 11:00pm	cost based on produce
Metro Atlanta Urban Farm	Value Added Production Classes Healthy Food Prep Classes Hands on Garden Lessons Food Delivery / Farmer's Market	Monday - Friday: (extended afterschool hours) 7:40am - 2:20pm	no cost
East Point Fire Station #2	Home Inspection Program CPR + AED Training Emergency Medical Services	Monday - Friday: (on call) 8:00am - 5:00pm	
East Point Police Department	Emergency Services	Monday - Friday: (on call) 8:00am - 5:00pm	
East Point Library	After school Program (Literacy, Stem, Summer Meals) Free Computer, Wifi Access Access to Network of Books	Monday - Tuesday: 10:00am - 7:00pm Wednesday - Saturday: 10:00am - 4:00pm	
East Point Post Office	Mail Service PO Box Service	Monday - Friday: 9:00am - 5:00pm	cost depends on services
East Point Health Center	Emergency Services	Monday - Friday: 8:00am - 5:00pm	cost depends on services
Dignity Museum	Guided Tours	Wednesday: 10:00am - 2:00pm	no cost
TILA Studios Gallery	Art Gallery	Monday - Friday: 9:00am - 7:00pm Saturday: 12:00pm - 4:00pm	cost based on purchase of art
East Point Historical Society and Museum	Bookstore Museum	Thursday: 11:00am - 2:00pm Saturday: 11:00am - 3:00pm	no cost...open to public
East Point Marta Station	Special Fare Programs: University Pass Program Marta Pass	Weekday: 4:45am - 1:15am Weekend: 6:00am - 1:15am	\$2.50 one way \$68.50 / mo student, \$83 / mo faculty
Sumner Park		Monday - Sunday: 7:00am - 10:00pm	
John D. Milner Athletic Complex		Monday - Saturday 6:00am - 11:59pm Sunday: 1:00pm - 11:59pm	
Brookdale Park		Monday - Thursday 7:00am - 8:00pm Friday: 7:00am - 6:00pm Saturday: 9:00am - 4:00pm Sunday: 11:00am - 4:00pm	

figure 3.9

3.5 neighborhood resources

East Point

family resources

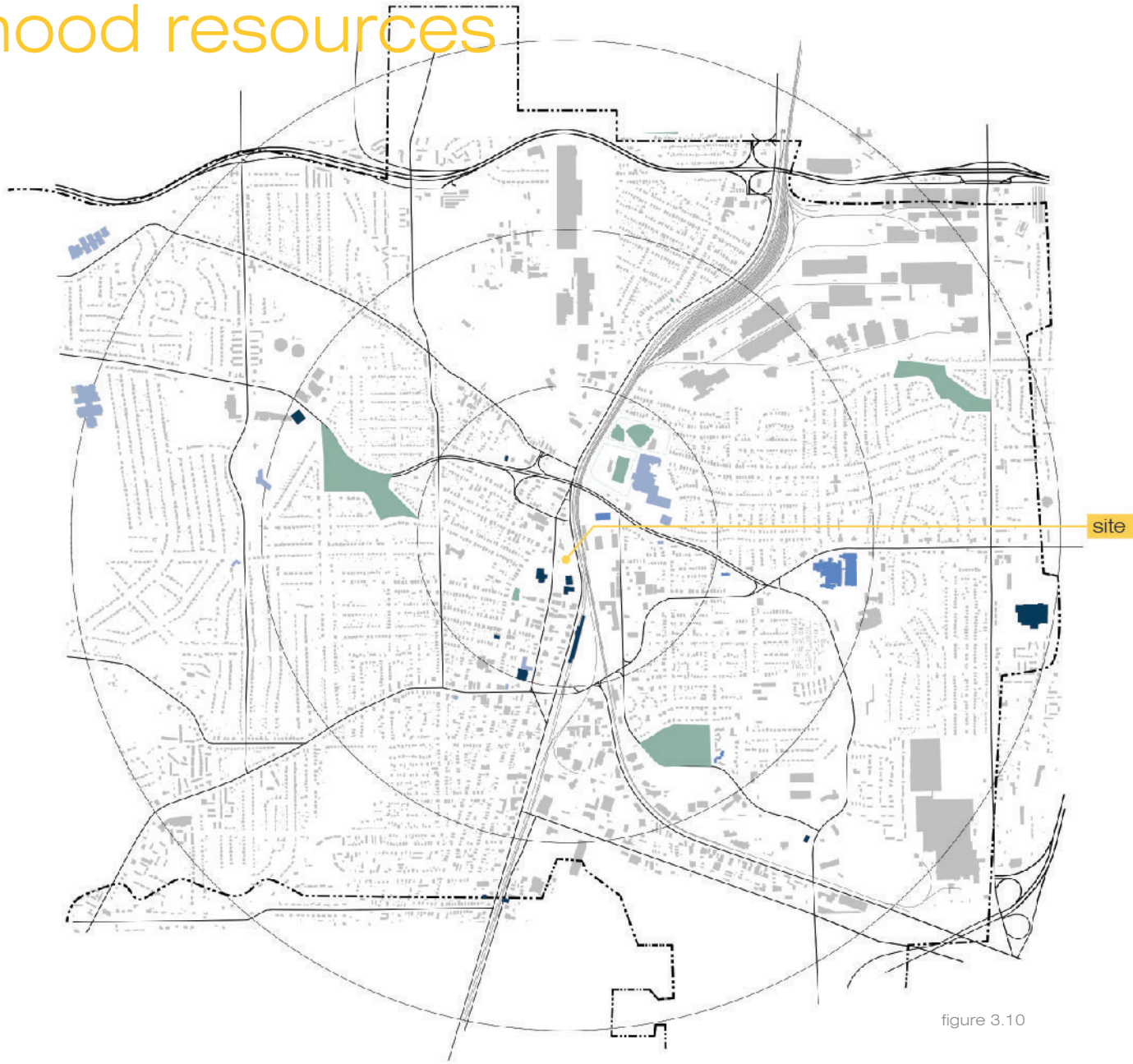
- East Point Housing Authorities
- Atlanta Division of Child Services
- Zion Hill Community Development
- Wellstar Atlanta Medical Center
- South / Family Medicine

children resources

- Tri-Cities High School
- Paul D. West Middle School
- Conley Hills Elementary School
- Hamilton E. Holmes Elementary School
- Seven Arts Center
- My Little Lamb Christian Daycare
- Childcare Network
- Early Start Learning Development Center
- Just US Girls Inc
- Jefferson Park Recreational Center

community resources

- Wayfield
- Walmart
- Metro Atlanta Urban Farm
- East Point Fire Station #2
- East Point Police Department
- East Point Library
- Post Office
- East Point Health Center
- Dignity Museum
- TILA Studios Gallery
- East Point Historical Society and Museum
- East Point Marta Station
- Sumner Park
- John D. Milner Athletic Complex
- Brookdale Park



outcomes





- lack of weekend activities / childcare support for families
If parents work weekends and night shifts who will take care of their child?

- lack of affordable programs for children
What if a parent cannot pay \$168 a month for Childcare Network services?

- lack of services that are specific to homeless families
Where can families gather and feel supported in neighborhood?

-lack of job training / resources and continual education for parents
How can parents provide a more sustainable life for themselves and their children without adequate job opportunities and training?

additional resources needed for families

	Wellness	Education + Training		Community	
	Physiological needs	Esteem needs	Self-Actualization needs	Safety needs	Love and Belonging needs
 Single Mother 1 - 3 Children	+ provide clothing and household items for mothers + mother and child therapy specific to verbal and physical abuse	+ at home job options + job training wokring with children in school / daycare		+ male mentor for children (if desired) + income allowances for single + extended childcare services	
 Single Father 1 - 3 Children	+ classes providing emotional support for men and their children + nutrition and cooking awareness sessions	+ working from home job options + training focused on coaching and building up children		+ female mentor for children (if desired) + fatherhood community support groups + extended childcare services	
 Two Parents 1 - 2 Children	+ counseling / therapy specific to two parent households + food staples / assitance programs	+ both parents provided with local job + training focused on sharing and allocating expenses		+ mentoring from commnuty and other families + intimate space for families	
 Disabled Parent 1 - 3 Children	+ provide safe space specific to families experiencing disabilities	+ awareness training and education for families with disabilities + creating jobs within facility		+ ADA appropicate community spaces + tutoring and mentoring from other families for children	

04

design proposal

- 4.1 location
- 4.2 program
- 4.3 spatial experiences
- 4.4 intervention design and methods

4.1 location

urban vs. suburban
East Point to Atlanta commute: 8.5 miles | 13-15 minute drive

Atlanta, has constantly progressed to provide the necessary resources for its inner city residents to live and work efficiently. However, locating homeless families here could be argued to result in more economic burdens where rent and living expenses are higher for those who are already struggling to meet their family needs.

East Point as a neighborhood ensures homeless families are met with open arms in a community that prides itself on service and family. Although the more urban scale has various resources present, East Point has the potential to add additional resources to its network that will allow families to be able to development and transition with a sheltering surrounding community.

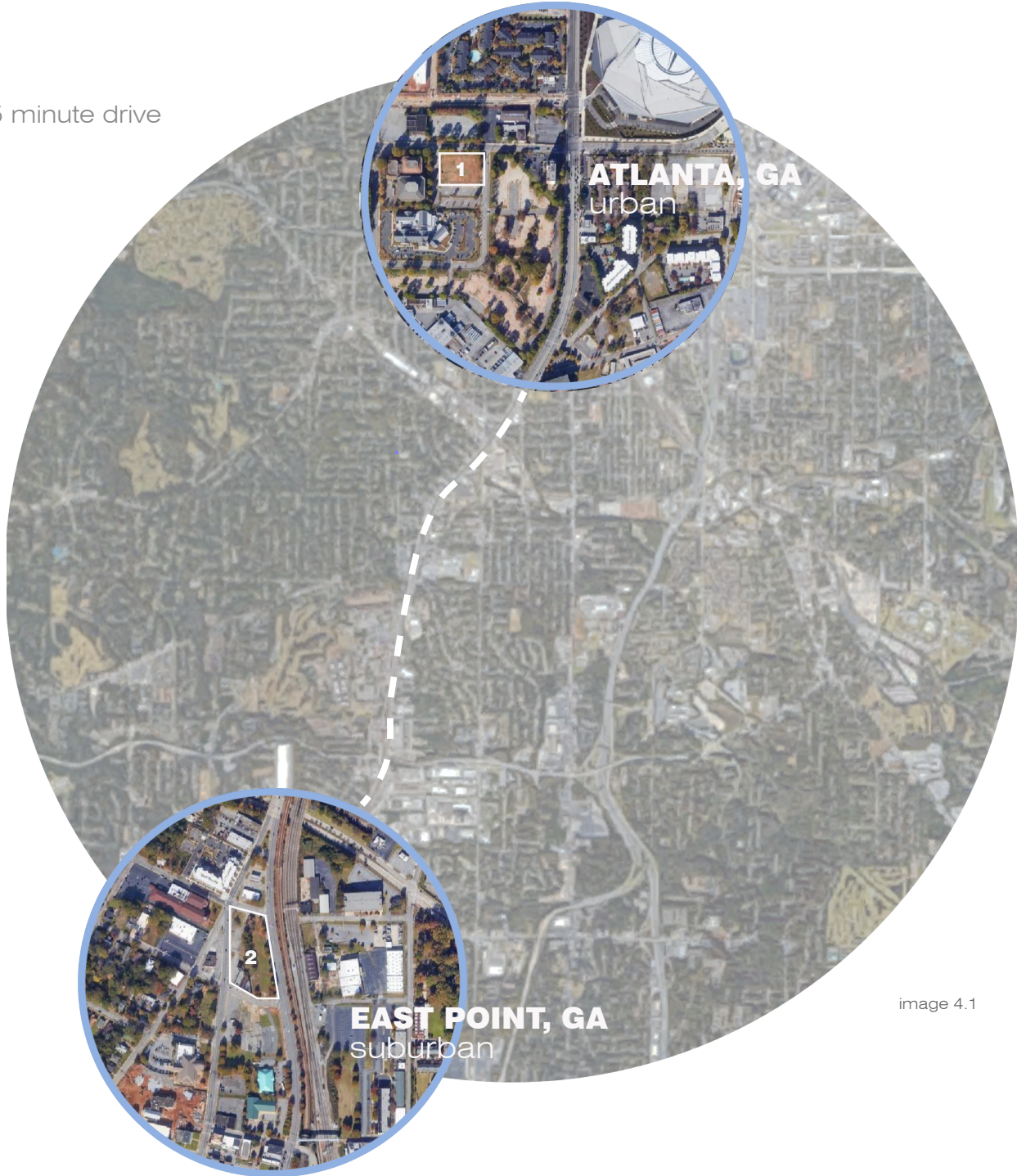


image 4.1



iterations | process

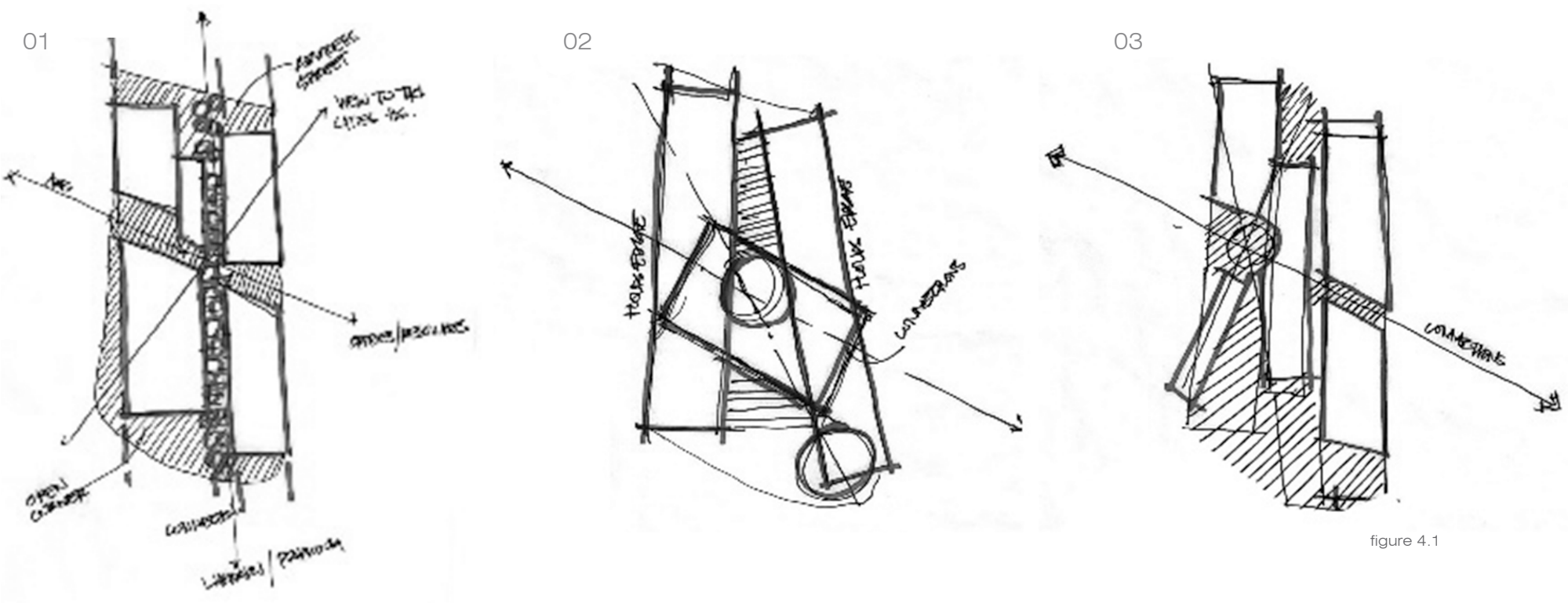


figure 4.1

Design iteration highlights four main axis points of entry and engagement on all sides of the street. Separating buildings encourages more movement and circulation throughout and around building. Wellness is the major component of building with the idea to keep existing trees in main corridor of site.

Circles are major focal points (nodes) created by major linear axis point from one side of the street to the other. Both building masses are anchoring and holding the edge at the street level to encourage circulation at main entrances. Internal corridor is activated by outdoor space.

Buildings create internal space for activation and connections. Strong axis point leads to major streets with engaged entries. Bottom left shifted mass begins to create more playful and open southern pocket on site. The openness of this iteration lead to the idea of being “seen” and “unseen” regarding the overall spatial experience of the project.

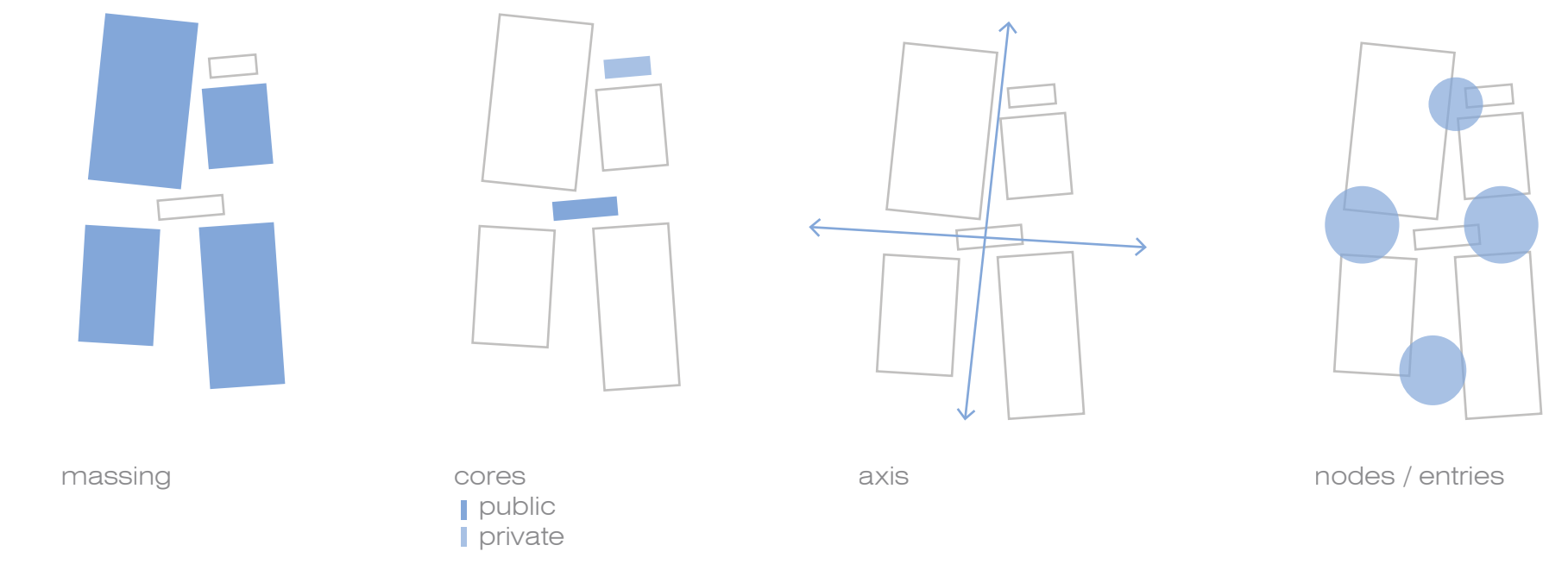


figure 4.2

Shifting masses create a dynamic experience at each axis point on every side of the street

Public and private cores act as boundaries for intimate residential spaces

Axis creates connection to both sides of the street, encouraging more social iteration between residents and surrounding community

Nodes are created through the use of the axis of connection and interaction

4.2 program

implementation of needs



Wellness

Physiological needs

- hygiene: providing basic substances: healthy nutrition, clean water,etc.
 - + showers
 - + laundry center
- psychotherapy: addresses and processing cognitive and behavioral issues
 - + family counseling
 - + meditation space
- comfort: providing desirable and supportive solutions to homeless families
 - + housing units
- identity: influencing self-image, self-esteem, and individuality.
 - + exercise room
 - + personal spaces
- healthcare: providing effective medical resources to homeless families
 - + clinic
 - + drug and alcohol treatment



Education + Training

Esteem needs Self-Actualization needs

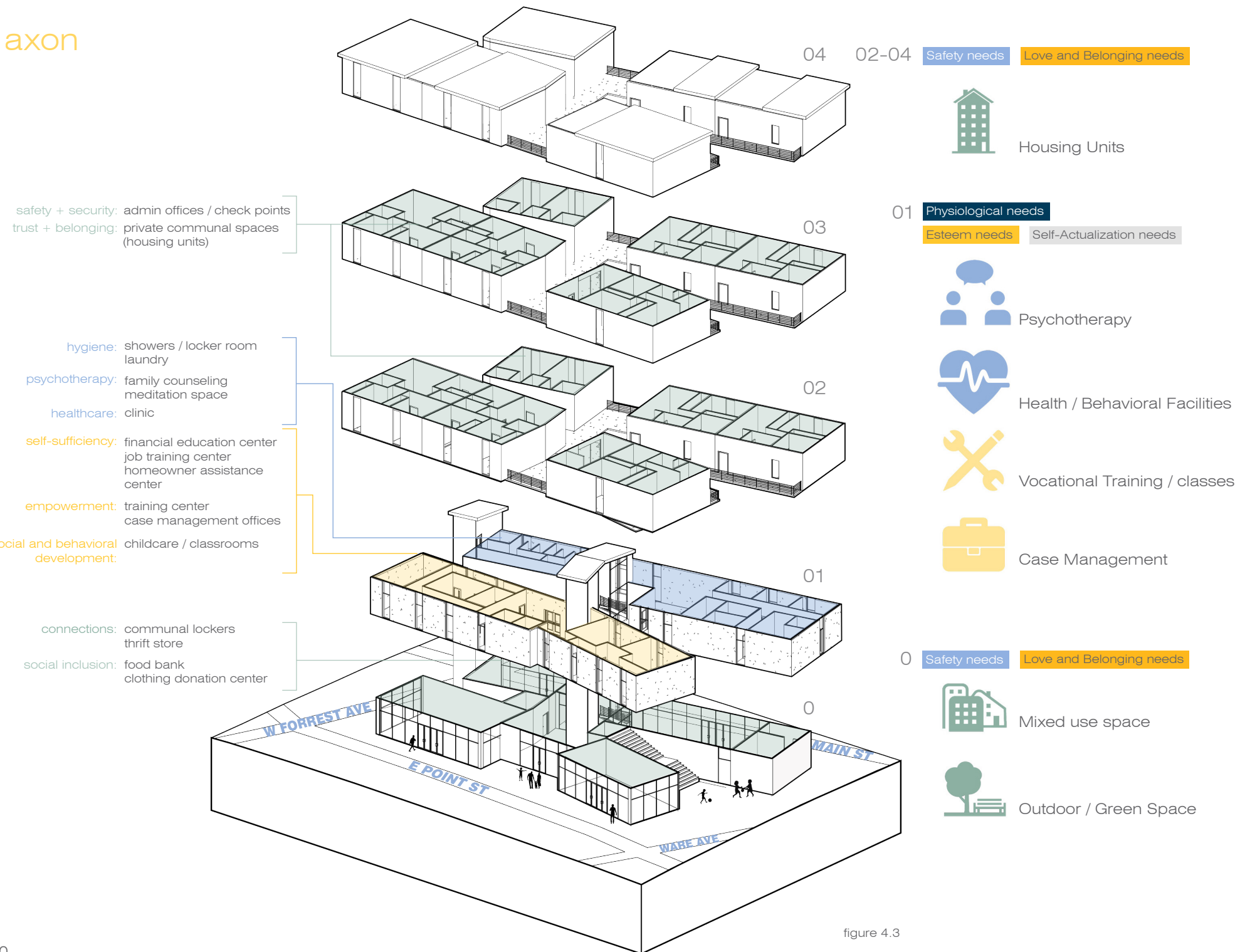
- self-sufficiency: ensuring long term contribution to community
 - + financial education center
 - + job training center
 - + homeowner assistance center
- empowerment: access to resources that allows homeless families to gain confidence
 - + vocational training center
 - + internship / apprentice center
- social and behavioral development: access to supportive educational services to enhance skills
 - + childcare center
 - + after-school program center



Community

Safety needs Love and Belonging needs

- connections: reducing isolation through surrounding community engagement
 - + communal lockers
 - + thrift store
- safety + security: reducing crime victimization link to homeless families
 - + admin offices / check points
- social inclusion: identifying and increasing opportunities of homeless families
 - + food bank
 - + clothing donation center
- trust + belonging: encourage voicing of experiences and sharing similarities
 - + private communal spaces (housing units)



program and needs implemented



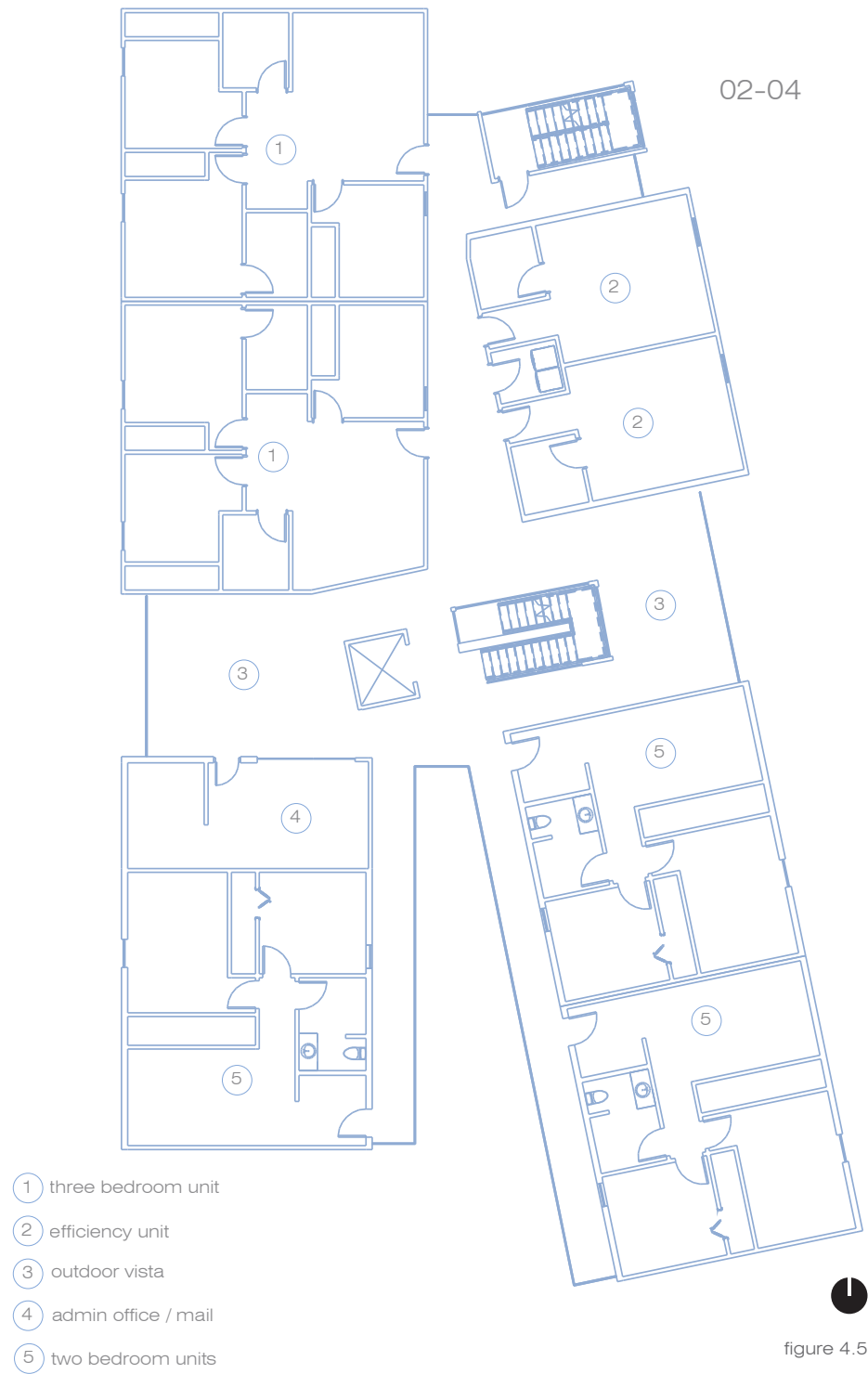
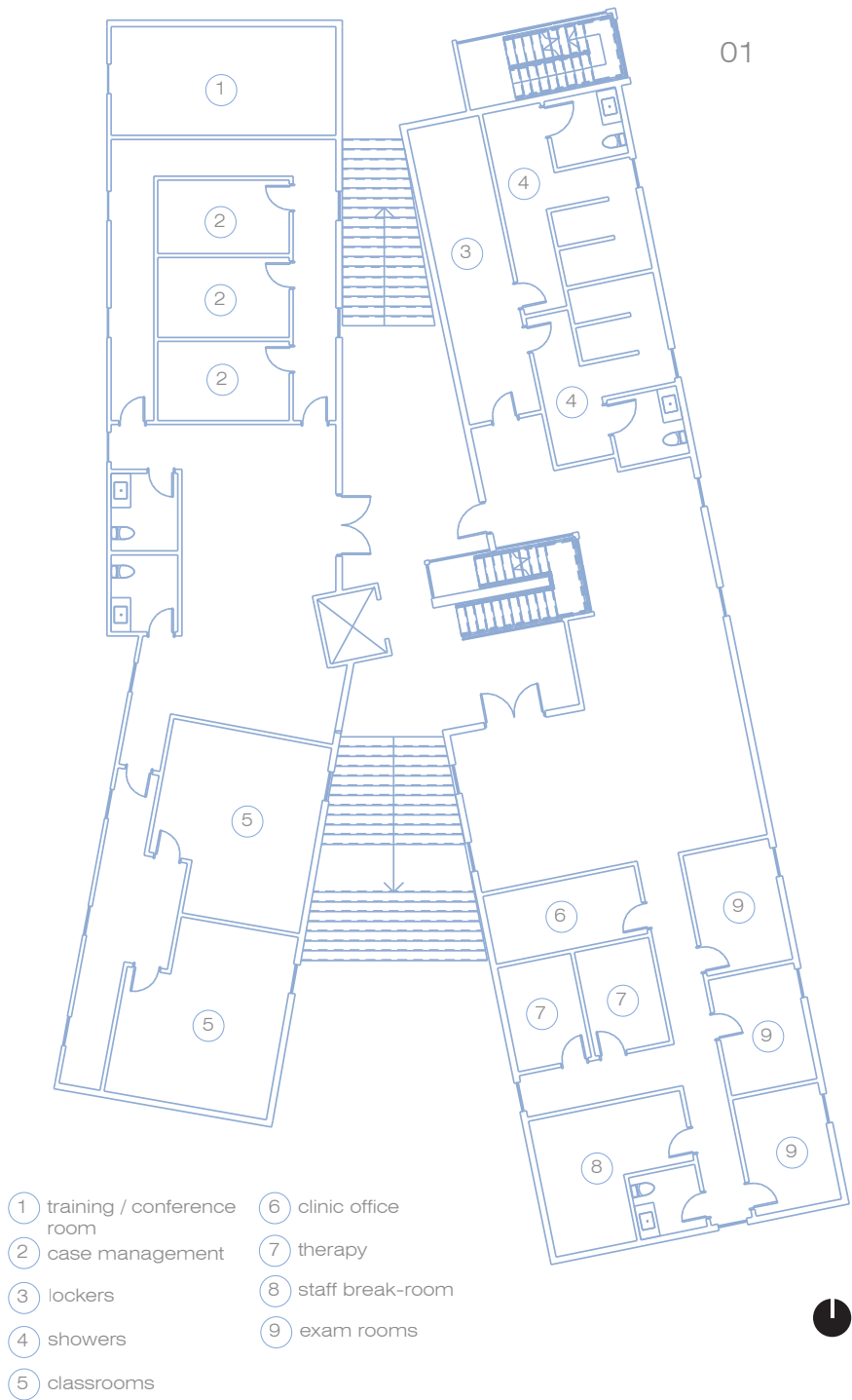
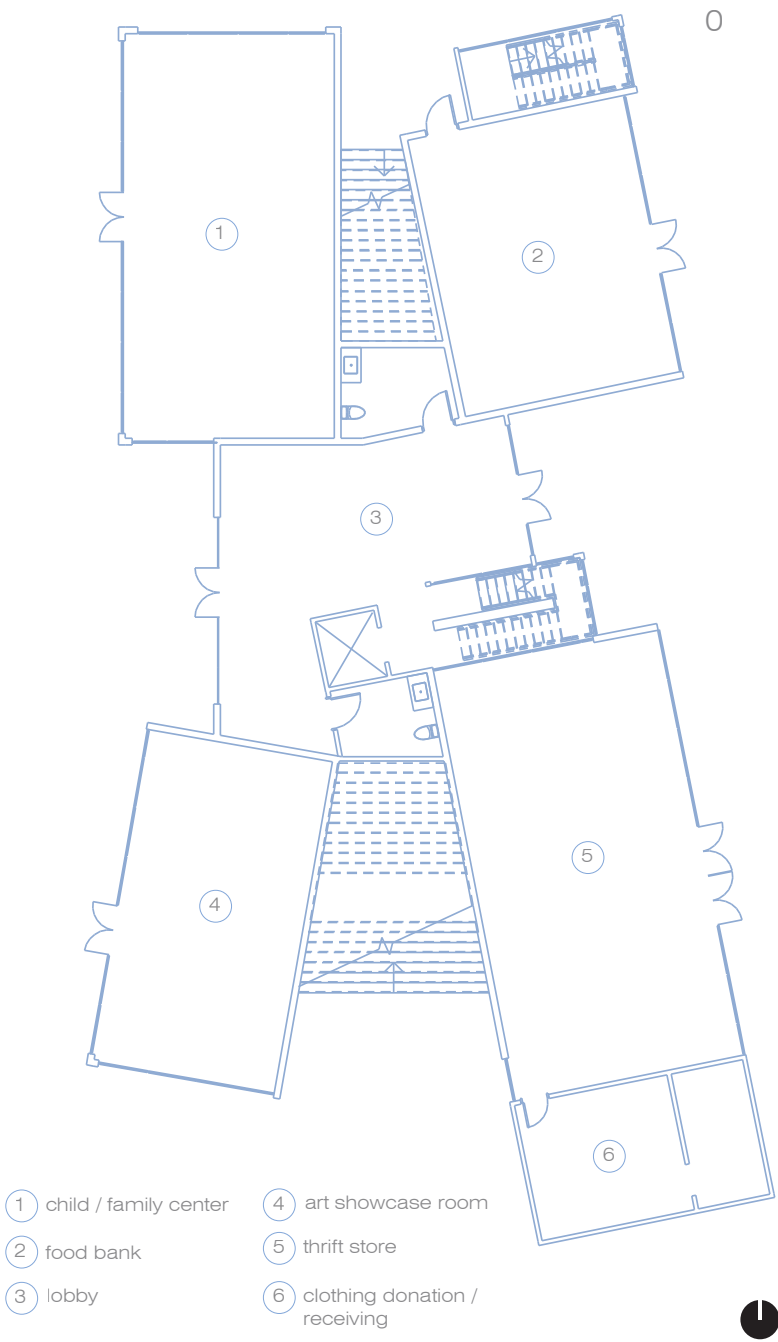


figure 4.5

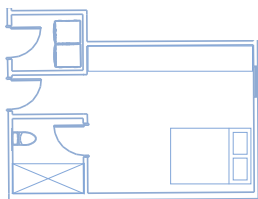
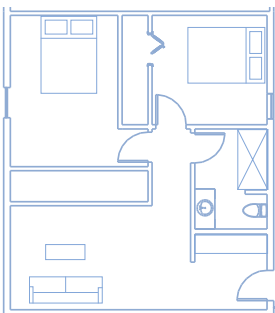
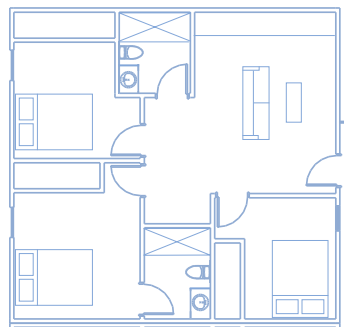
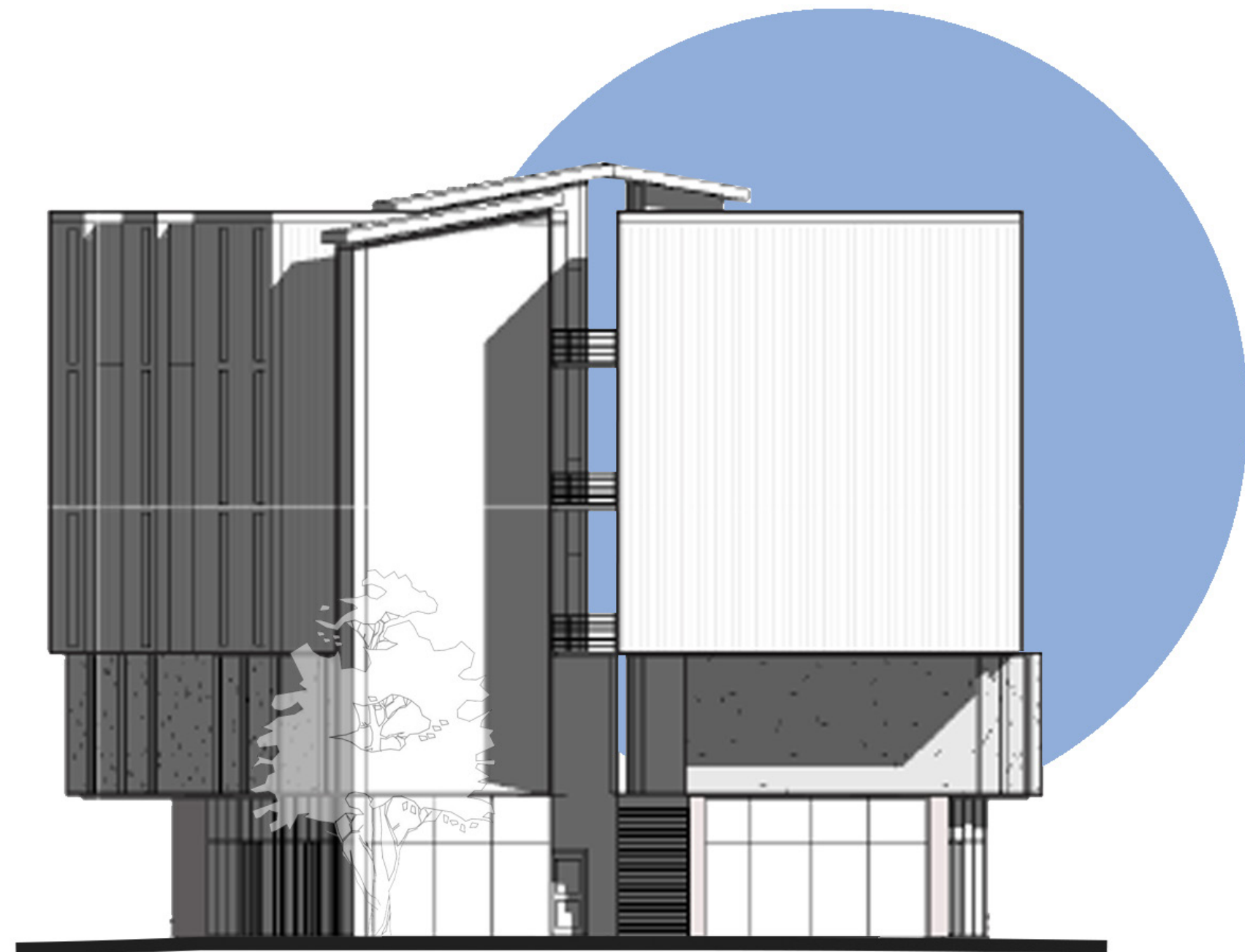
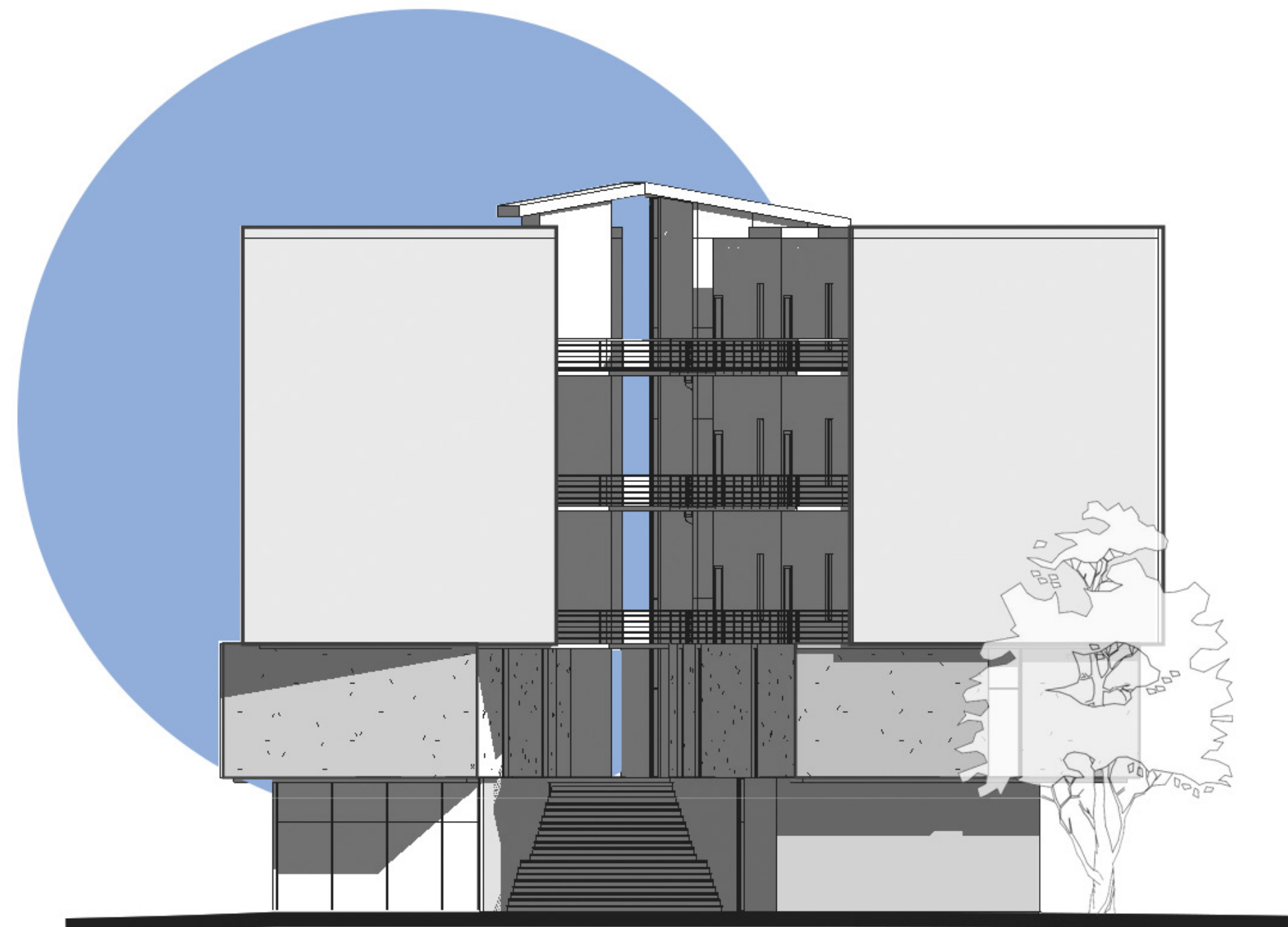


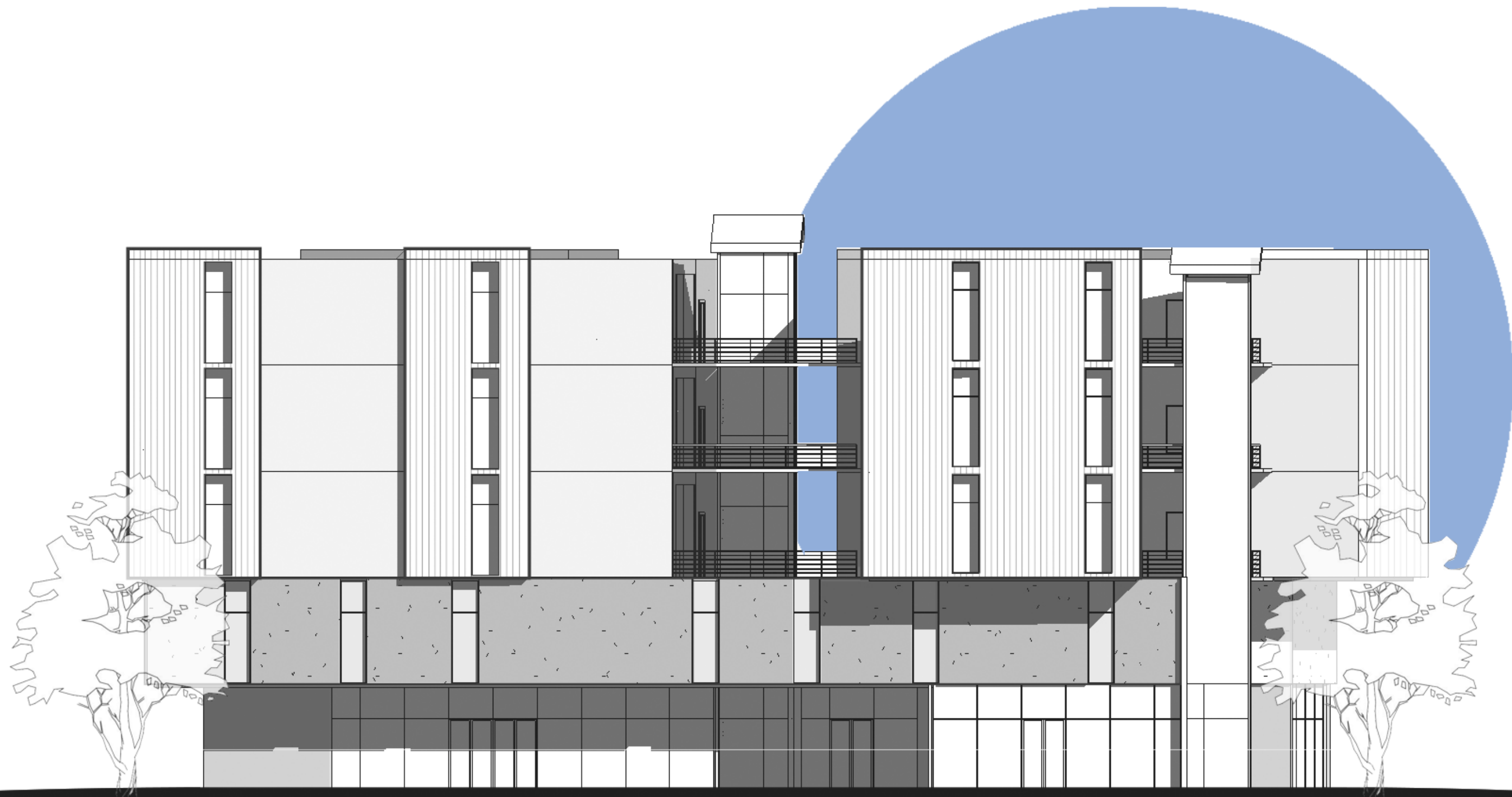
figure 4.6

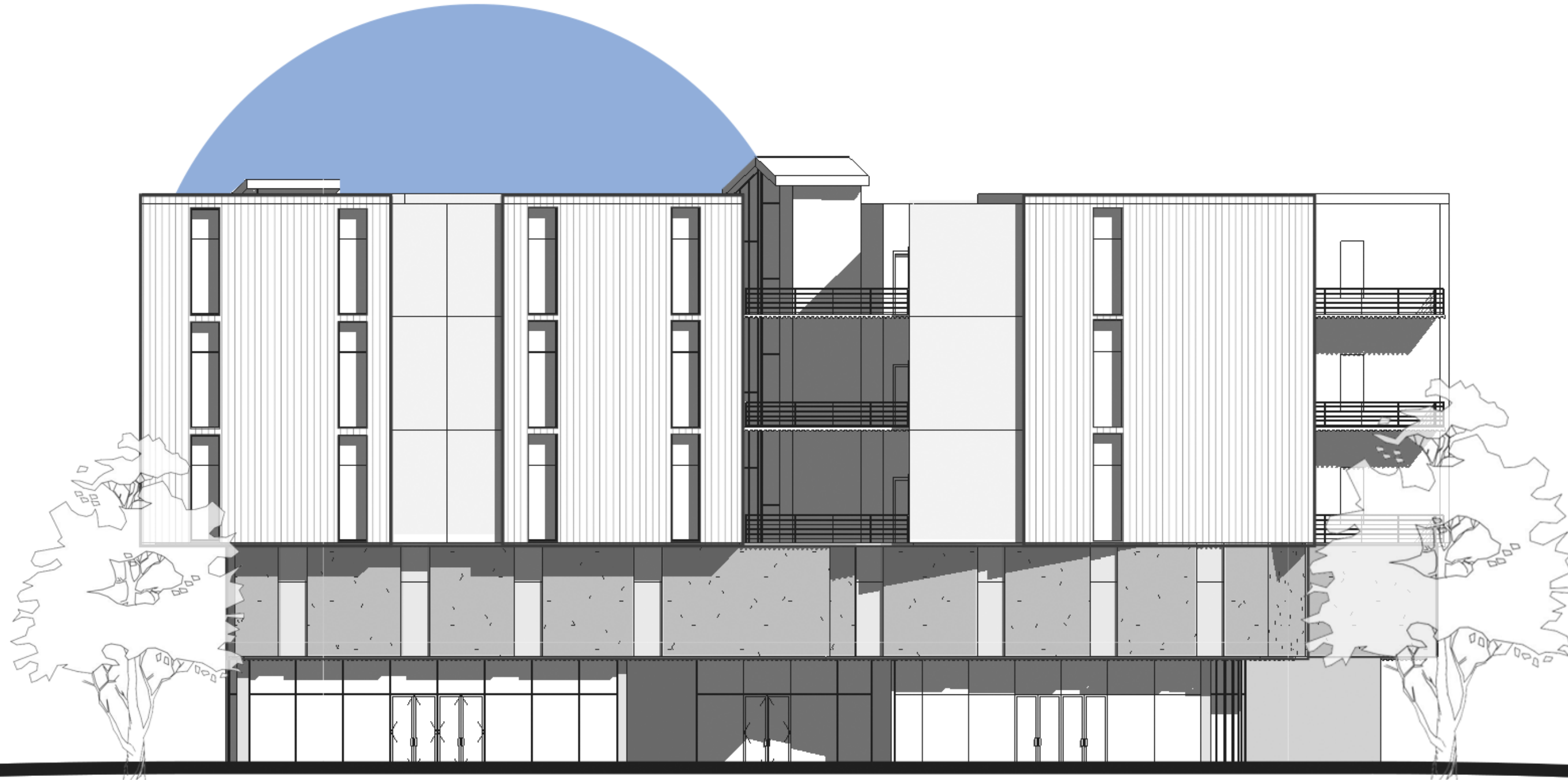
north elevation



south elevation







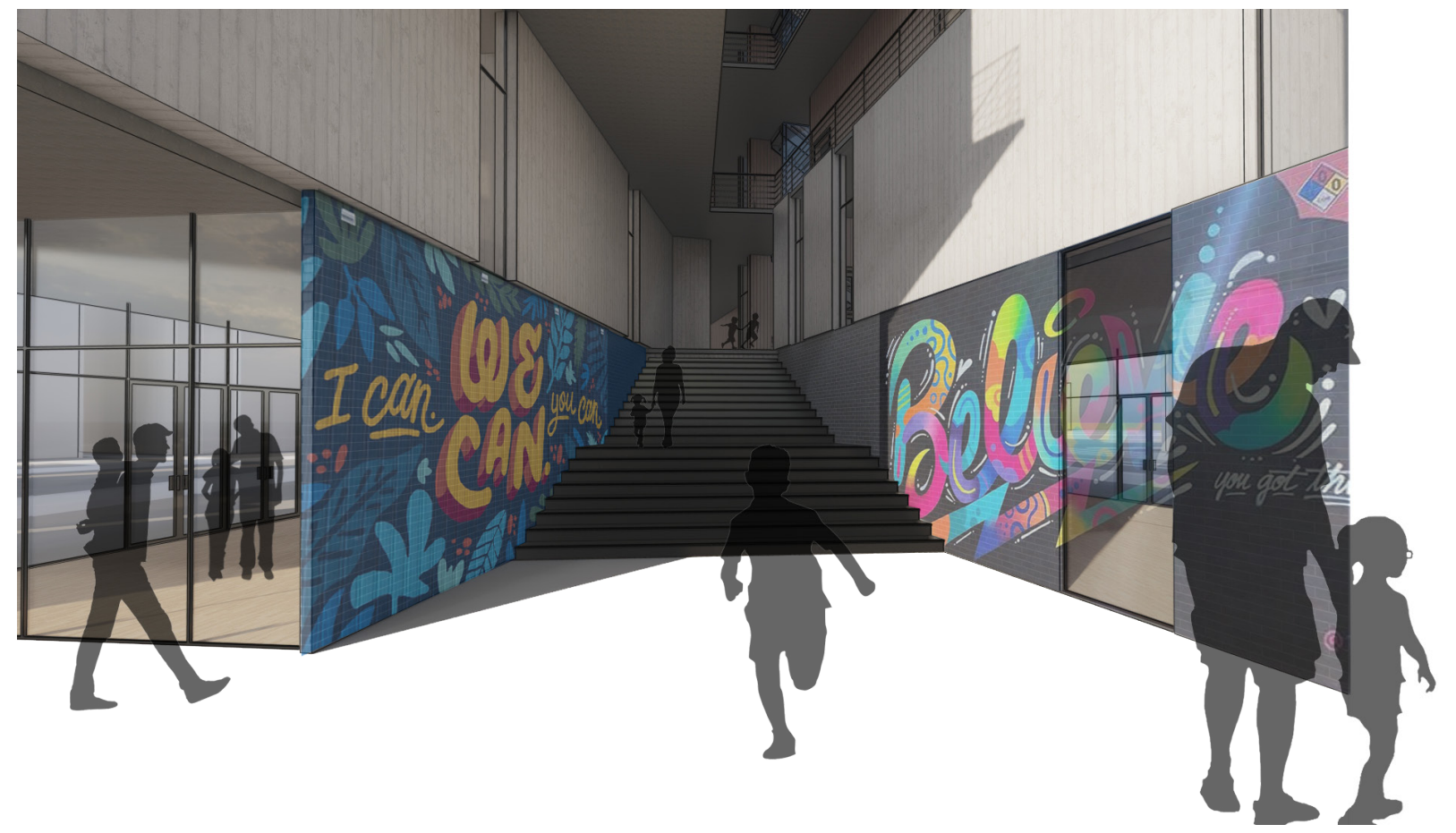
4.3 spatial experiences



south entry

Ground level provides open space for residents and the surrounding community to connect and engage:

- play
- retail shops
- art wall





lobby

Lobby creates central hub for various activities to occur:

- relaxation
- transition
- commune



efficiency unit

Housing units build a level of trust and belonging for families ultimately leading to self-sufficiency after their transition

- rest
- sleep
- eat



classroom

Education and training impact the overall development and empowering nature of families

- read
- rest
- play
- study



wellness center

Families have access to various healthcare resources

- self-reflection
- therapy
- shower

4.4 intervention design and methods

In addition to my architectural thesis, I have also explored a **hypothetical intervention** that provides a **transition plan** that provides homeless single parents and families with the necessary resources to **produce self-sufficiency** and uplift and empower families and children to dream big and continue to fight against the temporary condition of homelessness, through the **use of programs providing assistance in education, finances, and adequate housing**. The program's outline consists of several components providing essential needs for families. The intervention's goal is simply catering resources to ensure families gain independence while their **health, educational, and financial needs are being met**. The major components of the program include providing some type of assistance to:

- 1 Permanent affordable housing in a safe and healthy community
- 2 Economic Self-sufficiency and Employment services
- 3 Assess to healthcare and programs that address mental, physical, and emotional issues
- 4 Minimize Family Separation
- 5 Provide educational support to both parents and children

Another integral part of the program is collecting as much feedback as possible from participating families. The program's structure allows families and children to **personalize** their **pathway** and also provide comments on their desires and needs. Allowing families to personalize their pathway allows for them to **gain confidence** and independency earlier on in the process, making the process to transition more efficient when the time comes to departure.

Staff	Hours	Rate	Total
Community Liaison	40 hours / week	\$25.00	\$48,000
Supportive Staff	30 hours / week	\$15.00	\$26,000
Volunteers	Hours / weeks Vary	x	x
	Benefits	Vacation, sick, payroll taxes, insurance	\$15,000
Total Staff			\$115,000
Training			
CPR (for all staff)			
Technology Equipment			\$5,000
Manuals / Office Supplies			\$300.00
Total Training			\$5,350
Educational Materials for Children			
Books			\$800
Laptops for homework			\$1,000
Course / School Supplies			\$500
Total Educational Expenses			\$2,300
Kick off meeting Closure meeting	Food and Beverages (no alcohol)	\$300.00*2	\$600.00
GRAND TOTAL	x	x	\$123,250

budget proposal

Activities Program Process	Year 1				Year 2			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Selective Community Liasion / Interview	●				●			
Recruit Staff / Interview	●				●			
Train Staff / Volunteers on Ethnic, Values, and Mission	●				●			
Pre-addmisson Interviews with Families	●		●		●		●	
Create Presonalized Pathway / Resource Center for Families	●		●		●		●	
Administor Resources to Families	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Conduct Quarterly Check in / Survery	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Report Findings on Feedback				●				●
Annual Check ins / Survery on Families' Success				●				●

time-line of programs proposal

05 reflections

The design of this housing / family hub, focused on [providing additional needs](#) of trust and belonging, community engagement, and educational / training development as a way to [positively impact a transitional homeless family](#). Throughout this thesis process, there was also a challenge to consider what families would specifically need that the surrounding community currently did not have or needed to expand on, which in turn helps support a more trusting and empowering space for the surrounding community and families. After several interviews with various professionals that work with these families day in and day out, I was asked several questions about how architecture can be used to solve this ongoing issue of homelessness. As an aspiring architect, I think of Samuel Mockbee and his perspective of architecture as a response to various worldly issues. Mockbee challenges the notion of architecture, using [architecture](#) as a [tool](#) and [social art](#) that [rests on social and cultural issues fueled by civic engagement](#). His view on [physical poverty](#) is not an abstraction, but [evidence of the existing world](#) and its ever-growing conditions.

conclusions

Homelessness in the United States, specifically for families, has grown to become the major issue. Although housing is a major front runner in the homeless epidemic, it is also essential for families to receive the basic resources such as food, healthcare, and education to thrive. As a result, children are one of the most impacted subgroups of the homeless population. [1 in 30 children](#) in the United States experience homelessness. The direct impact homelessness has on children is related to their [education, health, safety, and overall development, causing higher levels of emotional and behavioral problems](#). This thesis proposal created the opportunity for more open conversations about how architecture can be used as a tool for self-sufficiency. The project renders an intervention that cohesively integrates wellness, education, and training services driven by equity. The project seeks to provide a trauma free environment, increase educational and training independency, and impart greater inclusion into the lives of families experiencing homelessness, with the intention to [reduce the amount of families entangled in homelessness](#).

figure list

chapter 01

- 1.1 Figure created from author.
- 1.1 Figure from author. Data from National Alliance of End Homelessness. Homelessness Statistics. State of Homelessness
- 1.2 Figure from author. Data from National Alliance of End Homelessness. Homelessness Statistics. State of Homelessness
- 1.3 - 1.6 Figure from author. Data from OFFICE OF POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH. 2011-2015 CHAS
- 1.7 Figure from author. Data from National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty. Homelessness in America: Overview of Data and Causes
- 1.8 Figure from author. Data from Students Guide Environmental Justice.
- 1.9 Figure created from author.
- 1.10 - 1.11 Figure from author. Data from Canadian Observatory on Homelessness/ Homeless Hub: York University

chapter 02

- 2.1 Figure created from author.
- 2.2 Figure from author. Data from A Report Prepared for the Family Housing Fund.
- 2.3 - 2.4 Figure from author. Data from Fulton County Schools 2019EHCY_DataReport.
- 2.5 Figure from author. Data from Poverty and Social Exclusion. An Introduction to Social Policy.
- 2.6 Figure from author. Data from Saul McLeod (2020) Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs
- 2.7 - 2.8 Figure from author.
- 2.9 Overland Architecture + Urban Design (Date Unknown) Exterior view of Homeless Center and Plans
- 2.10 Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R) (Date Unknown) Documents provided by Hoist Architecture. Diagram of Sustainable Features of Housing Project
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- 3.1 Figure created from author.
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- 2.2 Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R) (Date Unknown) Documents provided by Hoist Architecture. Exterior View of Housing
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- 2.5 ktgy Research & Development RE-HABIT Self-Supporting Mixed-Use Transitional Housing. Exterior View of Housing

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